

SNOOP TURNS A PRINCE INTO A PLAYER
BACHELOR BALLAD
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BRON-BRON
HOMECOMING KING FEELS THE HEAT
SPORTS {page 36}



HALIFAX metro®

Weekend, December 3-5, 2010
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News worth sharing.

Chief. Response



▶ Chief Shirley Clarke of the Glooscap First Nation heads to a news conference Thursday regarding salaries and expenses. Story, page 4.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trying to make cents of it all

Glooscap First Nation Chief Shirley Clarke confirmed her annual income is $243,000, but said she will ask for a review into compensation after consulting with the band's 304 members.

Where in world is WikiLeaks boss?

Whistleblower on the run for alleged sex crimes {page 16}

Man bruised, not battered

Crane operator back to work after machine tips over {page 3}

Raising the bar on ERs

Dr. John Ross hopeful province will adopt emergency room standards ◐ Health Minister Maureen MacDonald's response to report expected next week



ALEX BOUTILIER
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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶Dr. John Ross

Dr. John Ross released Nova Scotia's first comprehensive set of emergency room standards Thursday.

Ross, the man tasked with recommending improvements to the province's ailing emergency-care system, said he's hopeful the standards will be adopted in full by the Dexter government.

The standards revolve around nine points, including access to service, triage, staffing qualifications, performance of both district health authorities and individual sites, patient satisfaction and equipment.

If accepted by Health Minister Maureen MacDonald, the standards will set a minimum bar for quality of service — one Ross hopes will eventually be improved upon.

The first — and perhaps most controversial — standard states 24-7 emergency care should be within an hour's drive for 95 per cent of Nova Scotians.

"As we evolve over the next few years ... there are a number of emergency departments clustered together that we can start looking at some alternate rules for them," said Ross.

When Ross delivered his report on emergency care in October, opposition parties were quick to point out accepting his recommendations would break an NDP election promise to keep all provincial emergency rooms open.

MacDonald said Thursday she needed time to review Ross's standards before she would commit to accepting or rejecting them.

"It's the last piece that we need before we respond to his entire report," she said.

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Suspect emerges in 11-year-old case

Jeffrey Albert Lynds of North River has been named in court documents as the killer of Hells Angels member Randy Mersereau, who disappeared 11 years ago.

And Gerald Leslie MacCabe, 43, of Salmon River has been charged with accessory after the fact in Mersereau's death.

The RCMP's major-crime unit has also established a mobile command centre on Hiram Lynds Road in North River where a search is underway in a nearby wooded area.

Police would not confirm Mersereau's body had been found, although the Nova Scotia Medical Examiner's vehicle was at the site Thursday.

Lynds, who also has ties with the Hells Angels, remains in custody in a Montreal jail where he is charged in an unrelated double homicide.

The RCMP have been investigating Mersereau's disappearance since he was last seen Oct. 31, 1999, shortly after an explosion at a car dealership in Bible Hill, at what has long been suspected to have been an attempt on his life.

This is the first time police have indicated Mersereau is deceased. All previous communication has referred to him as being missing and while RCMP Sgt. Brigdit Leger would not comment on Lynds' involvement with Mersereau's disappearance, documents filed in provincial court clearly identify him as Mersereau's killer.

"Knowing that Jeffrey Albert Lynds had murdered Randall Armand Mersereau ..." the documents against MacCabe say, "did assist" (Lynds) for the purpose of enabling (Lynds) to escape."

TRURO DAILY NEWS

No comment

When questioned about Lynds' alleged involvement, Leger said she was not at liberty to comment.

"I can confirm that the information as sworn before the courts is correct and that the investigation is ongoing into the homicide of Randy Mersereau," she said.

Crane operator shakes off plunge

- Irving conducting its own investigation into incident
- Victim not seriously hurt

ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

A 61-year-old man who was operating a crane when it tipped upright Thursday was back on the job later the same day.

Shortly after 9:30 a.m., the man was lifting a forklift on to the M.V. Holiday Island at the Irving-run Halifax Shipyard, said Mary Keith, spokesperson for J.D. Irving.

The 55-tonne crane tipped and the forklift submerged in the Halifax Harbour, she said.

The man, who has worked at the shipyard for nearly 30 years, sustained bruises and was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, said Keith.

He was back to work that afternoon.

"Preliminary inspection indicates there is no damage sustained to the vessel," Keith told Metro in an email. "The crane is stabilized and a crew is on site developing a plan to right the crane."

It is not known when the crane will be lifted to its upright position, she said.

Keith said the incident has been reported to both the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and the Canadian Coast Guard.

1.4M

The number of man hours the company's facility has performed without any lost-time incidents, according to the Irving Shipbuilding Inc. website.

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ This crane plunged into Halifax Harbour Thursday, but its operator was not seriously hurt and back on the job later in the day.

Police step up search for truck

Police will be going door to door and conducting traffic checkpoints in Dartmouth Friday afternoon on the second anniversary of the death of Rachelle Valade.

Police are seeking the public's assistance in finding a truck that struck and killed Valade Dec. 3, 2008.

Shortly after 9 p.m., 35-year-old Valade was walking through a parking lot at 6 Primrose St. when a white tractor-trailer cab struck her as it was pulling out of a parking spot. The truck continued out of the lot and turned right onto Victoria Road.

It is not known whether or not the driver is aware that he or she struck Valade, according to police.

Police are asking for information about any trucks parked in that location around the time of the incident.

METRO



▶ Rachelle Valade

Committee releases controversial legislation

A controversial labour bill in Nova Scotia has passed another legislative hurdle.

The legislature's law amendments committee has sent the proposed labour board act back to the house for further debate.

Both opposition parties and some private businesses say the bill could force private companies to unionize if they do business with the government — something the province says is not the case.

They are also concerned about a lack of representation on the proposed labour management review committee that will examine labour relations legislation and recommend possible future amendments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘Our duties are vast,’ says Glooscap First Nation chief

Canadian Taxpayers Federation reiterating its call for greater transparency of compensation given to First Nations politicians Department of Indian and Northern Affairs not getting involved: Spokeswoman

The chief of a Nova Scotia First Nation of 304 members defended her six-digit salary on Thursday amid a brewing controversy over the compensation given to aboriginal politicians, saying she has diverse responsibilities and a heavy workload.

Shirley Clarke, who leads the Glooscap First Nation, confirmed she collected more than $243,000 in 2008-09.

“Our duties are vast,” Clarke told a news conference. “They’re very vast here.”

Clarke said she received annual compensation of $209,150 in 2008-09 and was reimbursed an additional $34,000 in travel expenses. The compensation includes salary, housing support and honorariums.

Promised changes

- Shirley Clarke said she will now consult with other Mi’kmaq politicians in Nova Scotia about salaries and report back to the band in January.
- She also promised to create a website where compensation figures will be posted.
- “I work hard but I can always do better,” she said.

Her compensation figure was among those obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation more than a week ago through access-to-information legislation. Nationally, the figures showed 82 chiefs and councillors had compensation packages that exceeded the prime minister’s annual salary of $317,574.

Clarke defended the salaries of the band politicians.

“Some of our people have several jobs. We have portfolios,” said Clarke, adding she sits on national committees and several Mi’kmaq health boards.

The Mi’kmaq chief said that of her total compensation and expenses, $152,930 comes from Ottawa, and $87,500 is from band revenues derived from sources such as the casino and store on the reserve just outside Hantsport, N.S.

Clarke said another elected councillor made $209,187 in compensation for her dual roles as councillor and the band’s social development officer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chief Shirley Clarke, right, of the Glooscap First Nation, and Eleanor Beaton, a public relations consultant, at Thursday’s news conference.

Mix-up kept inmates from provincial polls: Ombudsman

Inmates in jails across Nova Scotia were unable to vote in last year’s provincial election because of a bureaucratic snafu, the province’s ombudsman revealed Thursday in an annual report that called for increased scrutiny of the corrections system.

Dwight Bishop’s report says a correctional services worker alerted the ombudsman’s office about the problem on the day of the election, June 9, 2009.

The chief electoral officer responded by saying it was too late to set up polling booths in the province’s five jails, which house about 300 inmates.

“There had been some mix-up in the process,” Bishop told a news conference. “There was not a process in place that would enable them to vote at that time.”

A subsequent investigation revealed the province’s inmates never received an Elections Nova Scotia pamphlet instructing them on how to cast a mail-in ballot.

“Our investigation determined ... slippage occurred and the information was not forwarded to correctional facilities in time for the election,” Bishops writes in his report.

He confirmed Elections Nova Scotia, the provincial Justice Department and its correctional services branch have since drafted protocols describing voting procedures for offenders.

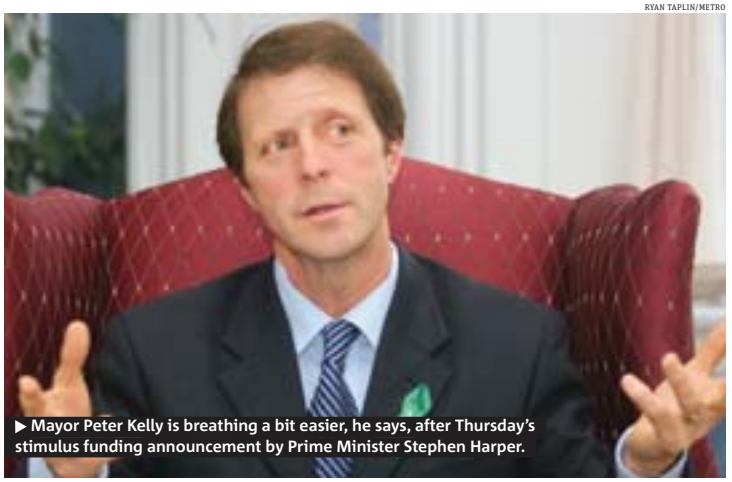
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth centre

- **Bishop’s report** also revealed that adult female offenders were being temporarily placed in a youth detention centre since 2007, contrary to the Youth Criminal Justice Act.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Mayor Peter Kelly is breathing a bit easier, he says, after Thursday's stimulus funding announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Projects get breathing room

Federal government is forking over $16 million toward 23,000 projects Most will meet deadline: PM



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

Several HRM construction projects were given a little breathing room Thursday.

The deadline for the federal government's economic stimulus plan was pushed back by a construction season. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, speaking in Mississauga, Ont., said the move will allow for the completion of a small number of projects.

The new deadline is Oct. 31, 2011 — instead of the end of March.

Mayor Peter Kelly said there are four projects still underway in HRM. What will be appreciated most is the $10-11 million Ragged Lake tunnel project, which was running tight under deadline.

There also two fire stations being built, and city hall is currently getting a facelift, but those were not expected to have any deadline issues.

HRM was allotted $35 million under the stimulus plan and Kelly said the municipality is using all of it.

"All the projects will be complete, although this gives us some breathing room just in case," Kelly said.

Harper said the plan, announced in February 2009, created 420,000 new jobs. However, a survey commissioned by the parliamentary budget officer suggests it's been a flop when it comes to job creation.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wonderland

Peter Kelly said the stimulus program has done wonders for employment and getting infrastructure projects done in the HRM.





The countdown is on to the Canada Games

Nova Scotian athletes ready to rock Halifax this February Winter Games last held in province in 1987

ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Kita Mcrory said this time around, she's going for gold.

"But who isn't?" said the 21-year-old snowboarder. "I've just been training as hard as I can."

Mcrory, from Dartmouth, placed seventh in the 2007 Canada Games giant slalom competition in Whitehorse. Mcrory is looking to surpass her previous placing and said time is on her side.

"We've had a lot more time to prepare for these games than the last one, so it's more time on snow and off snow," said Mcrory, who trains at Cole Harbour Place and the Sackville Sports Stadium.

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ Premier Darrell Dexter

Emily Dwyer, a member of the women's curling team, said there's no place like home.

"I'm really excited, especially because it's in my home town," said the 17-year-old from Lower Sackville. "We're hoping to medal. We're setting high goals."

Premier Darrell Dexter was in Province House on Thursday to shake the hands of six team Nova Scotia athletes and wish them "the best of luck."

"Nova Scotians are proud and dedicated people," he said to about 50 people in the Red Chamber yesterday. "Our athletes are practising for one of the most exciting competitions of their lives."

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ Kita Mcrory wants to stand atop of the podium at the Canada Games in Halifax this February.

Winter Games

- **What:** The Canada Winter Games, billed as the country's "largest multi-sport competition for young athletes."
- **Venues:** Several will be used across HRM, including Halifax Metro Centre, Halifax Forum, Halifax Common and the new Canada Games Complex in Clayton Park.
- **Sports:** Twenty-two different sports, ranging from alpine skiing to boxing to hockey to speed skating to table tennis.
- **Who:** More than 100,000 athletes have competed in both the Summer and Winter Games since the inaugural event in 1967, including big-name winter alumni Sidney Crosby (2003), Catriona LeMay Doan (1983 and 1987) and Hayley Wickenheiser (1991).



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INDIAN BROOK

Mountie attacked by dogs

An RCMP officer is recovering after he was attacked by a pair of dogs on a Nova Scotia reserve on Thursday.

Police say the officer was trying to serve a summons at an Indian Brook home when he was set upon by two Cane Corsos, each weighing about 100 pounds.

The officer, a member of Northeast Nova Traffic Services, sustained a number of bites to his body. He was transported to the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax for treatment of serious, non-life threatening injuries.

The RCMP says by the time additional officers arrived on the scene, the owner of the dogs had secured the animals in his home. No charges have been laid but police are still investigating.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 charged after raid in Lower Sackville

Three people have been charged after police searched a residence in Lower Sackville earlier this week.

Halifax RCMP say officers conducted a search at a home on Howland Drive on Wednesday afternoon and allegedly seized two handguns. Police say an RCMP Emergency Response Team assisted in the arrests of the three people all from Lower Sackville.

John Hanna, 28, Jillian Decoste, 21 and Gina Hanna, 51, are each charged with various weapon offences and were to appear at Dartmouth provincial court on Thursday.

METRO

Holiday magic returns to ballet

HOLLY CROOKS/CONTRIBUTED



▶ The Nutcracker is once again expected to draw big crowds during its run at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker premiered in Russia in 1892

The ballet known for inspiring Christmas spirit is celebrating its 20th year in Halifax.

The Nutcracker, performed by Symphony Nova Scotia, The Young Company of Halifax Dance and Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, opens Friday.

"It's the time of year when everybody wants some magic," said Leica Hardy, the show's artistic director. "For a lot of families it's become one of their annual Christmas outings."

It's a show that works for young and old, she added. It's an imaginative story filled with colourful puppets, ballet dancers, and of course, the very recognizable music.

"We have tweaked some choreography this year ... it might not be overtly obvious to someone who doesn't know the show well."

Gay Hauser, who plays the role of the headmistress, has been involved in the show since the beginning. She said of the cast of about 40: "Some of them live for it every year, and it's a big part of their lives."

JENNIFER TAPLIN

Showtimes

See The Nutcracker at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium:

- Friday, Dec. 3
- Saturday, Dec. 4
- Sunday, Dec. 5
- Friday, Dec. 9
- Saturday, Dec. 10
- Sunday, Dec. 11

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Local road information: **1-888-432-3233**

NOVA SCOTIA
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Emera expands Caribbean assets

Halifax-based Emera Inc. says it's buying a majority stake in Grand Bahama Power Company Ltd. for $82 million, beefing up the Canadian utility company's assets in the Caribbean.

Emera — owner of Nova Scotia Power — will have an 80.4 per cent direct and indirect interest in the Bahamian island's only utility company once the deal closes. Emera's other assets in the Caribbean include 19 per cent of St. Lucia Electricity Services Ltd., and 38 per cent of Light & Power Holdings in Barbados.

Emera already had a minority stake in GBPC but announced Thursday that it bought an extra 55.4 per cent of direct and indirect interest from MaruEnergy Grand Bahama Limited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OK needed

- The acquisition, which is being financed through existing credit facilities, is subject to approval by regulators in the Bahamas.

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Liberals urge review of power rate freeze

The Opposition Liberals want the New Brunswick government to put a promised three-year power rate freeze to the Energy and Utilities Board for review.

Liberal Leader Victor Boudreau says he has concerns about the potential long-term effects of the promise, particularly on NB Power's debt, and on rates once the freeze expires.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Daddy of a merry telethon

This year you can click with Christmas Daddies by watching on the web Don't miss it on Sunday

You won't need your remote control to flick on this year's Christmas Daddies Telethon.

The 47th annual event will also broadcast on the web at bellalliant.net.

The Christmas Daddies Telethon has modernized since 1964, incorporating social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

But in many ways, it hasn't changed at all, said longtime host and CTV Atlantic news anchor Steve Murphy.

"People still look forward to the first Sunday in December as a day to trim the Christmas tree, put up their Christmas lights and watch the Christmas Daddies show," Murphy said Thursday.

"I think that's the wonderful part about it ... it's one of these things that doesn't really change."

Murphy couldn't remember if this was his 29th or 30th year hosting the fundraiser.

"It's been a part of my life for so long now. I can't imagine Christmas without it.

"Christmas Daddies was born because a couple of people in a TV station ... saw a child who had nothing and no prospects."
STEVE MURPHY

"I'll even go a step further — I can't imagine life without it now."

Last year, Christmas Daddies raised more than $857,000, bringing Christmas to more than 17,000 children from around the region, but Murphy said the numbers aren't important.

"We've never really set a goal, it's always 'let's do the best we can.'"

Starr Dobson will host the telethon alongside Murphy Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on CTV Atlantic and then from 2 to 6 p.m. on A.

And you can also watch it — of course — online.

ALY THOMSON

METRO



▶ TV's Steve Murphy says many children won't get much of a Christmas.

Landlords worry over tenancy changes

Landlords and tenants rights advocates have spoken out about proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act.

Changes would grant renters automatic tenure at the beginning of the lease, meaning landlords would have to provide cause before evictions.

Now a landlord has the same rights as a tenant – they must give three months notice. Tenure is granted after five years.

But some landlords worry changes would limit their ability to get rid of problem tenants.

Cole Webber of the Tenant Alliance of Nova Scotia says the amendments are a safeguard against unfair evictions.

ALEX BOUTILIER

Three teen fugitives arrested in the woods

Three teens have been arrested over an alleged break-and-enter in Hackett's Lake just before noon on Thursday.

Halifax RCMP say they were called to the scene after a homeowner saw three people coming out of his house.

The trio fled in a car on the Peggys Cove Road.

But police say they spotted the vehicle near Ashvale Court, thanks to tips from the public.

When officers stopped the vehicle, police say, the three teens ran into the woods.

But they were quickly arrested.

There was no immediate word on charges.

METRO

Workplace seizures revamped

Labour safety investigators in Nova Scotia would need search warrants or a business's permission before seizing equipment under new amendments.

Jim LeBlanc, executive director of the labour department's safety division, says the move brings the Occupational Health and Safety Act in line with a court ruling four years ago.

Until that ruling, labour safety investigators did not require warrants or a business's permission for seizures.

The government intends to repeal a section of the act that enabled investigators to seize on sight equipment and documents deemed essential to an investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Seriously, those Wiki leaks are a bit of a giggle

- Merkel's uncreative, Berlusconi's a party boy
- And then there's Gaddafi's voluptuous Ukrainian ...

WIKI LEAKS

World leaders may be doing worldwide damage control amid the WikiLeaks crisis, but for others poring over thousands of secret U.S. documents, there's been an unexpected treasure unearthed .

Laughter.

Springing from the fingertips of buttoned-down American diplomats have been several colourful dispatches about some of the most powerful, famous and feared people on Earth, revealing them to be every bit as human as the rest of us.

Britain's Prince Andrew: He puzzlingly boasts about Britain's superior geography teachers at a lunch with the U.S. ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.

Germany's Angela Merkel: She was described as someone who "avoids risks and is rarely creative."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi: He is "vain, feckless" and a serious party boy whose late-night revelries prevent him from being an effective leader.

Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi: He needs to be accompanied everywhere by a "voluptuous blond" Ukrainian nurse.

North Korea's Kim Jong-Il: In Asia, diplomats quoted sources describing him as a "flabby old chap."

France's President Nicolas Sarkozy: He spent a meeting with the U.S. ambassador chasing a rabbit around his office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh joy, no joy

- Longtime Canadian diplomat Paul Frazer says his cables stuck to issues — not stories of wild parties.
- "I was in Warsaw in the midst of communism. There wasn't a lot of fun happening."

Ivory Coast. Joy in the streets



▶ Supporters of opposition leader Alassane Ouattara celebrate in Abidjan Thursday.

REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Was it a win — or a 'coup bid'

A senior adviser to Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has described an electoral commission's announcement of an election victory for the opposition as "an attempted coup." An election runoff was held last Sunday.

3 **WikiLeaks says Mexican officials proposed a strategy for regaining order in three cities —Tijuana, Juarez and Culiacan.**

Mexico's big fear

A Mexican minister told U.S. officials he feared Mexico would lose control of parts of the country to drug traffickers, says WikiLeaks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Harper backs fretting Afghan ambassador

Says it's known Canada has been 'outspoken in its concerns about some aspects of Afghan governance'

WIKI LEAKS

Published reports say William Crosbie, Canada's Afghan ambassador, fears criticisms he made about Afghan president Hamid Karzai could damage Canada's relations with the leader.

Crosbie reportedly warned Ottawa that a U.S. diplomatic cable with the criticisms will soon be published on WikiLeaks, and has offered to step down.

When asked whether Crosbie's criticisms went too far, Harper said "Crosbie doesn't represent the government of Afghanistan, he represents the government of Canada in Afghanistan."

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Stephen Harper

He said Ottawa will continue to express those concerns "emphatically to our counterparts in Afghanistan."

The reports quote Crosbie saying he was very critical about the misuse of power of Karzai and his family.

Last month, Harper said the Afghan government doesn't deserve a "dime" of foreign aid money until it cleans up its act on combating corruption.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Button. Lights



▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper with his daughter Rachel.

PAWEL DWULIT/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turning on the holiday spirit

Along with Russell Mills, chairman of the National Capital Commission and speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken, Stephen Harper and his daughter pushed a giant button to mark the official illuminating of Parliament Hill Christmas lights in Ottawa on Thursday.

Reducing Radiation

Chicago's Image Wisely campaign pledges to use the least radiation on patients during medical procedures. A panel at a radiology meeting yesterday said the campaign may lead to more review of protocols, accreditation of imaging facilities and widely shared standards on proper radiation doses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minks own the island

The minks who choose Toronto Islands as their home have done what others have only dreamed: they circumvented the 40-year waiting list.

According to islanders, the minks crossed over a few years ago.

Minks have always hid in the city's watery corners.

KATIE DAUBS STAFF REPORTER

Crossbow murder

A crossbow was used to kill a man in a Toronto public library, police said yesterday.

A man in his 40s was shot in the back with an arrow. Police said a suspect in his 30s was arrested minutes later in the east end. Residents nearby said they were bewildered by the unusual attack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rescuers die in Israeli forest fire

- Guards were trying to evacuate Palestinian prisoners
- Hot summer, dry fall led to blaze's quick growth

A bus evacuating people from a massive forest fire Thursday in northern Israel went up in flames, killing dozens of guards who were helping to rescue inmates from a prison, officials said.

Fire officials said the blaze, which torched some 800 acres and was one of the deadliest accidents in the country's history, remained out of control as nightfall arrived.

"This is a disaster of unprecedented proportions," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. He said the government was using all means at its disposal to contain the blaze.

The fire in the northern Carmel region broke out around midday, and within hours, authorities were clearing the area of hundreds of residents, as well as Palestinian inmates from a prison. During the evacuation, a bus from the prison went up in flames. TV footage showed the charred skeleton of the bus, with dozens of bodies lying on the ground.

Yoram Levy, a spokesman for the national fire service, said some 40 people were killed as a result of the fire, most of them from the bus accident. He said officials suspected the fire erupted after people were burning garbage.

In a statement, Israel's prison service said the bus was carrying guards "on their way to help in the rescue activities" at the Damun prison.

Eli Bin, a spokesman for the Mada rescue service, said just three people survived the bus crash, and all suffered severe burns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACK GUEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Israeli firefighters stand close to a raging fire in Carmel Forest, near Haifa on Thursday. Police said at least 40 people died in the inferno.

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Canuck YouTube stars share tips on going viral

Keep posting and don't pay attention to commenters, auteurs say Popular site not a get-rich-quick scheme

There's a subculture of web users who speak reverentially about the work of RayWilliamJohnson, ShayCarl, or MysteryGuitarMan.

None are household names, but Internet famous? Definitely.

A roomful of YouTube auteurs aspiring to the same status gathered Thursday night at Google's Toronto office to trade tips on how to hit it big on the web's largest and most popular video site.

Corey Vidal says getting a million hits on YouTube was tough but getting 50 million, that was actually much easier.

11.5 million hits

- User Mugglesam — who didn't want to reveal her name — said commenters aren't her problem, and she's actually had a hard time getting family members to understand why she posts videos of her children on YouTube. Her most popular post, a cute video of one of her daughters asking for a lollipop, has more than 11.5 million views.

And while the 23-year-old Oakville, Ont., native doesn't think he's necessarily cracked the code to YouTube fame and fortune, he has quit his job to become an online video pro.

"My advice is just keep going, don't get lazy, don't give up, don't get discouraged if things aren't working," Vidal said during a panel discussion.

Also on the panel was user FLuffeeTalks — he prefers not to go by his real name — who has nearly half a million subscribers and almost 94 million views. He recommended that newer users not get discouraged by the nasty cesspool that is YouTube's comment section.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.K. Snow



▶ A woman plays with her dog on snow-covered Brighton beach in England on Thursday.

READERS

Britons wacked by winter

More heavy snow caused havoc across Britain, disrupting rail services and leaving travellers stranded. Commuters struggled to get to work as Britain's worst early winter weather in almost two decades showed no sign of easing its icy grip.

Woman tells court she still loves rapist

The former girlfriend of convicted Alberta rapist Cory Bitternose says she still loves him, despite the fact he sexually assaulted her on their first date.

The woman testified Wednesday at a dangerous offender hearing for Bitternose, who savagely attacked a young woman in Banff in 2008. The ex said she dated Bitternose in 2006 and they have a child together. The woman was called by the Crown in its attempt to show that Bitternose has a long, violent record with women.

Bitternose, 40, was driving a stolen truck on July 13, 2008, when he pulled up alongside two women who were cycling home from a local pub in Banff.

He offered them a ride and they accepted. But instead of taking them to their destination, he drove to a vacant lot and began beating them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A man watches a broadcast about Pakistan's pro-Taliban religious leader Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman, disclosed by WikiLeaks memos in Karachi, Pakistan, on Thursday.

Some secrets appear to be not worth keeping

Everyone loves a secret. But after almost a week of cascading revelations courtesy of WikiLeaks, it is increasingly evident American diplomats love the term to occasional excess.

Take, for instance, a "Secret" missive to Washington from the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia.

Weighing in at 3,585 words, the document tells you everything about a fairly short but severe 2009 blackout in Brazil.

We learn in excruciating detail the various explanations for the blackout, as reported in the Brazilian press. A final section recommends that Washington "seize the moment" as an opportunity for closer engagement with Brazil, perhaps by offering an "energy cooperation agreement" to share expertise.

Not top secret

- None of the released WikiLeaks memos are classified "Top Secret," a designation the U.S. reserves for info that could cause "exceptionally grave damage."

Former U.S. ambassador to Canada Gordon Giffin, no longer gagged by diplomatic discretion, says the classification "Secret" is routinely assigned to just about anything moving through the sausage-factory of U.S. diplomacy.

"If some visiting diplomat attends a reception in Ottawa and loved the food so much they ask for the recipe, chances are the cable will be marked "Secret" when it lands at the Canada Desk in Washington," said Giffin, who was stationed in Ottawa in the Clinton era.

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Sex-workers say laws will loosen

Harper says prostitution is 'bad for society' a view shared by 'most Canadians' Stay pressures government to expedite appeal process

Summer appeal

A schedule worked out by lawyer Alan Young, representing sex-trade workers, and government lawyers says an appeal will be heard in the summer.

- **It will likely end up** before the Supreme Court. Young believes Justice Susan Himel's decision will stand.
- **"The only really** important issue right now is whether the law is going to be applied in the short term," Young said.
- **"These laws are necessary** ito protect not only the individuals ... but the communities as well," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said.

Sex-trade workers will one day be able to legally provide for their families and work in Canada without fear of violence, advocates predicted Thursday, even as Ontario's top court kept prostitution laws in place for now.

A landmark court ruling striking down three key prostitution laws was put on hold until April 29, giving the federal and provincial governments time to appeal.

Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, one of the three sex-trade workers at the heart of this case, said outside court yesterday that she is confident they will win in the end.

But she suggested Prime Minister Stephen Harper is hiding behind the courts on the contentious issue, and challenged him to "fight like a man."

"He can withdraw this appeal at any moment and change the law through Parliament," she said.

"His silence means that he does not know what to do and is not concerned about the violence against women."

Harper was asked about Bedford's comments after he made an unrelated announcement and seemed tickled.

"I've never been called upon to respond to a dominatrix before," he said with a smirk.

Harper said the government supports the laws and his government looks forward to fighting on appeal to keep them on the books.

Bedford said she will continue to fight for the safety of other women.

"The only people who benefit from this law right now are tax evaders and organized crime," she said.

"The women need to be able to call the police when they're beat up by the pimps and the johns. As it stands right now they can't. They can't press charges because they're carted to jail along with (the assailants)."

Prostitution was not illegal in Canada, but the court struck down three provisions that criminalized most aspects of prostitution. Criminal Code offences dealing with people under 18 are not affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford, left, Nikki Thomas and law professor Alan Young on the steps of Osgoode Hall Thursday after Justice Rosenberg of The Ontario Court of Appeal granted a stay on three prostitution-related laws until April 29.

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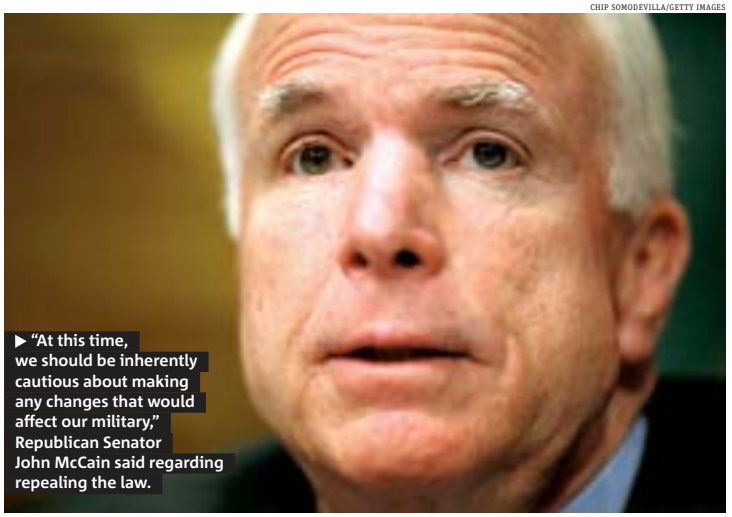
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▶ "At this time, we should be inherently cautious about making any changes that would affect our military," Republican Senator John McCain said regarding repealing the law.

McCain snubs U.S. military study on gays

The military's top uniformed officer challenged McCain, saying wartime is an ideal time to allow gays to serve openly

Directly challenging the Pentagon's top leadership, a leading Republican senator on Thursday snubbed a U.S. military study on gays as flawed and said letting them serve openly would be dangerous in a time of war.

Senator John McCain's opposition foreshadows the upcoming Senate debate on a bill that would overturn the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law, which bans gays from serving openly in the service.

McCain, a former Navy pilot, comes from a long family line of service in the military. He was a Vietnam era prisoner of war and was the Republican presidential nominee in 2008 who lost to Barack Obama.

All in favour?

- A Pentagon study released this week found that the overwhelming majority of troops were not against seeing the policy repealed.
- But among those who did care, most were troops performing combat arms duties.
- Nearly 60 per cent of those in the Marine Corps and in Army combat units said they thought repealing the law would hurt their units' ability to fight on the battlefield.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, has promised a vote, but McCain has helped to block previous debate on the Senate floor.

Further dimming chances of repeal this month was a recent agreement among Senate Republicans not to vote on any bill before addressing tax cuts and government spending.

Advocates of a repeal had hoped that this week's Pentagon study would have lessened Republican resistance to the bill.

McCain seized on the findings of the study to argue that forcing such a substantial personnel policy change in a time of war would be wrong for the military and the U.S.

He also criticized the study for scrutinizing only how the law could be repealed, instead of whether doing so would benefit the military. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASHIER THEFT

Cigarettes and booze on mayor's credit card

A cashier at a drug store in Washington is accused of stealing the mayor-elect's wallet and using his credit card to buy cigarettes and liquor.

Court documents and surveillance video shows 22-year-old Tamika Garris rang up Vincent Gray's purchases and then picked up his wallet after he left it on the counter. Several hours later, she went to another register and used Gray's credit card to buy cigarettes for $13.

Later, Garris is accused of going to a liquor store and forging the mayor-elect's signature for $25 in liquor.

Garris was arrested Wednesday and charged with credit card fraud. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged arsonist sets himself on fire

Police say a man suffered a self-inflicted setback when he attempted to torch a Montreal pharmacy overnight.

Witnesses said the suspect's coat caught fire as he tried to set the pharmacy ablaze before he made a frantic escape. THE CANADIAN PRESS



WikiLeak's Assange on run

Spokesperson says his location is secret

WIKI LEAKS

Sweden's Supreme Court upheld a court order Thursday to detain WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for questioning over allegations of rape and sexual molestation.

The 39-year-old Australian, who denies the accusations made by two Swedish women after his visit to the country in August, had appealed two lower court rulings allowing investigators to bring him into custody and issue an international arrest warrant.

He has not been formally charged.

WikiLeaks has angered the U.S. and other governments by publishing almost half a million secret documents about U.S. diplomatic relations and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Julian Assange

The search for Assange, whose whereabouts is unknown, was stepped up Wednesday as Sweden confirmed it had issued a European arrest warrant for him. Since leaving Sweden, the computer hacker has appeared in Britain and Switzerland but disappeared from public view after a Nov. 5 press conference in Geneva.

He has spoken publicly only through online interviews and WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said late Wednesday the organization was trying to keep his location a secret for security reasons. He noted commentators in the United States and Canada had called for Assange to be hunted down or killed.

Britain's The Guardian, which helped broker the original WikiLeaks dump of Afghan intelligence files, has said Assange is hiding out in southeastern England. The paper did not cite a source for its information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest. Violence



▶ Police clash with demonstrating students outside Greece's parliament, in the latest protest against austerity measures, in Athens, Greece.

THANASIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turmoil in Greece

Police fired tear gas and clashed with youths during the brief incident after some 1,500 people marched through the Greek capital Thursday.

Microbe is out of this world

The discovery of a strange bacteria that uses arsenic as one of its nutrients widens the scope for finding new forms of life on Earth and beyond.

Researchers discovered the bacteria on Earth, but say it shows life has possibilities beyond the major essential elements.

"This organism has dual capability. It can grow with either phosphorous or arsenic. That makes it very peculiar, though it falls short of being some form of truly 'alien' life," commented Paul C. W. Davies of Arizona State University, a co-author of the report appearing in Thursday's online edition of the Journal Science.

Six major elements have long been considered essential for life — carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur.

Researchers discovered the bacteria in Mono Lake, California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wobbly. Economy



▶ A man holds a placard advertising low-cost meals earlier this week in in Dublin, Ireland.

PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

Taking to the streets

The Irish economy has faltered after years of growth, and European Union finance ministers recently OK'd an aid package totalling 85 billion euros ($112 billion).

Study: Women don't get credit for cash smarts

- Findings show media paint women as meek on money
- Most Canadian women confident about money matters

Canadian woman, it seems, are more than capable when it comes to managing their personal and household finances.

However, whether those abilities are being accurately portrayed or perceived was enough to prompt one financial expert to commission the study entitled Financial Lives of Girls and Women.

Barbara Stewart, a portfolio manager at Cumberland Private Wealth Management Inc., hired Angus Reid Public Opinion to examine what she views as a "fundamental disconnect" between how women describe their ability to manage their personal finances and what they actually do.

48%
When it comes to getting financial news, about 48 per cent of women chose newspapers and 33 per cent picked up financial knowledge through television.

"Paradoxically, while women are in fact confident in financial matters, many persist in using self-deprecating language when asked about their ability to manage their finances," said Stewart, in a white paper containing the results.

"This outdated script is not useful for women and their finances and it is not consistent with reality."

About 1,000 women participated. Stewart also conducted 25 one-on-one separate interviews with additional women and focus groups were employed to back up the results published in a white paper exploring the findings.

Resale site not valid

Ontario passed a new law Thursday to stop U.S. entertainment giant Ticketmaster from selling and then reselling tickets to the same event.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTENT COMPETITION

Shaw calls for online regulation

Telecom company Shaw Communications is calling on the CRTC to regulate certain aspects of the Internet to protect Canadian broadcasting.

The cable carrier, broadcaster and Internet provider told a Commons heritage committee Thursday that online movie providers Netflix, Hulu and video site Google TV are undermining Canadian broadcasters' ability to pay for domestic content.

Shaw executives said the Calgary-based company, which recently bought Canwest Global, pays about $150 million a year for local content and to support Canadian producers through the Canadian Media Fund.

But Netflix, Hulu, Google TV and others can distribute similar programming without any responsibilities to generate Canadian content, or pay into the fund that supports Canadian producers, actors, writers and directors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Loblaws owner Galen Weston, pictured with wife Hilary Weston, is the highest-ranking individual on Canadian Business Magazine's list of "the 100 richest Canadians".

Family dynasties top wealthy list

Families occupy half of the top 10 positions Loblaws owner ranks as top individual with $8.5 billion

What do media moguls, cheese-makers and New Brunswick industrialists have in common? They've amassed enough family money to land them among the top 10 wealthiest Canadians.

The Thomson clan, owners of the Thomson-Reuters media empire, are the richest people in Canada with a family fortune of $23.36 billion according to Canadian Business Magazine's list of the "100 richest Canadians."

New Brunswick industrialists James, Arthur and the late Jack Irving came in at No. 3 with net worth of $7.46 billion, while the media barons in the Rogers family sit in fourth place with $6.02 billion.

Quebec cheese-makers the Saputo family rank ninth with $3.52 billion, while brothers Fred and Ron Mannix, who founded Calgary's Mancal Group, round out the top 10 with $3.18 billion.

The highest ranking individual on the list is Loblaws owner Galen Weston, whose $8.5 billion fortune landed him in second place. Spots five through eight went to Vancouver's Jim Pattison with $5.53 billion, Power Corp. chief executive Paul Desmarais with $4.28 billion, pharmaceutical magnate Bernard Sherman with $3.94 billion and original eBay employee Jeff Skoll with $3.56 billion.

The list also contained some surprising moves.

David Azrieli, founder of Montreal building company Canpro Investments, saw his net worth decline 21 per cent to $2.93 billion.

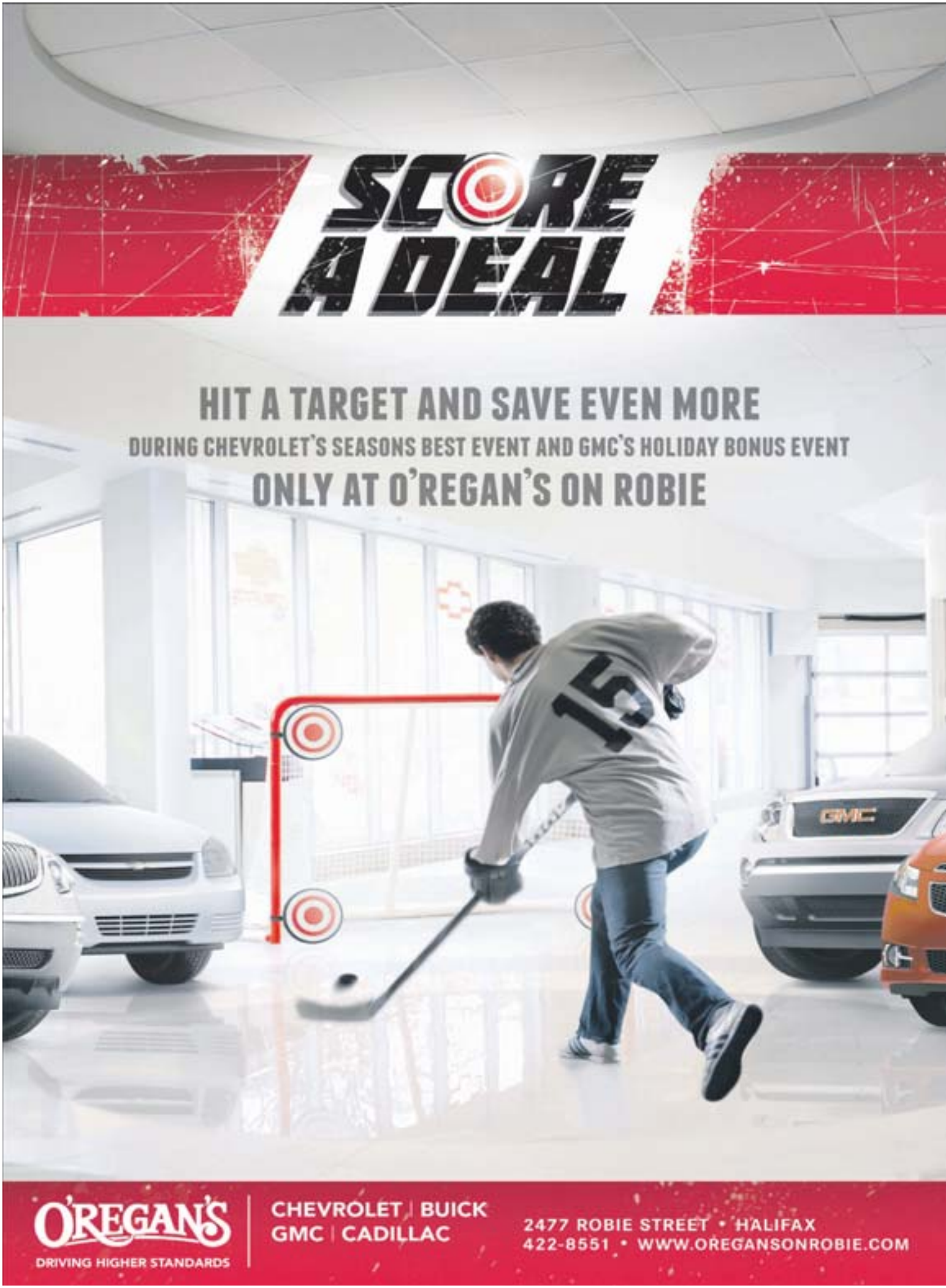
Research in Motion founders Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie also suffered financial losses this year. Balsillie recorded the survey's largest drop in personal wealth, the magazine said, falling from 16th to 30th place with a fortune of $1.81 billion.

Conversely, Lululemon Athletica founder Chip Wilson registered the most dramatic financial gains this year, increasing his fortune by 66 per cent. Wilson placed 49th on the list with $1.25 billion, up from a ranking of 78th last year.

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Chris Morrissey

5 MINUTES WITH: CHRIS MORRISSEY

When it comes to the Canada Games, Chris Morrissey has been around the block. He's been with the Games for more than 10 years, serving as general manager for the first event held north of 60 in Whitehorse, in 2007, and as chief executive officer for the upcoming Games in Halifax from Feb. 11 to 27. As CEO, Morrissey is responsible for the overall planning, organization and staging of the Games. With about two months to go, Morrissey ensured the event would go off without a hitch.

The Games are fast approaching. How are you feeling?
I'm quite comfortable. We spent a lot of time doing the planning and putting the right things together for a business plan and now we're at the stages of implementing the business plan so we're on the right track ... Now's the time to start building the venues and getting ready for the athletes to arrive.

How does it feel to be hosting the Games in Halifax, where you currently call home?
Halifax is a great host city. It's a great event city and lots of great things have happened in Halifax. I think it's also going to escalate the brand awareness of the Canada Games and Halifax has been engaging when it comes to anything from sponsorship to volunteers. The people want to get involved with the Games.

> **"Sure, (Halifax has) lots of history of hosting great single sport events."**

Do you think Halifax is ready for an event like this?
Sure, it's got lots of history of hosting great single sport events. There are lots of other events that have come to Halifax. Just judging by the volunteer recruitment targets and the planning that's been done, we're into the execution stage now so we're ready to go.

What event are you most excited for in the 2011 Canada Games?
I'm definitely looking forward to long-track (speed skating). It's unique, and you can see the oval being constructed. There's a lot of heightened awareness in the city right now. The exciting part is getting everybody on it before and afterwards.

ALY THOMSON

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Building up a good sweat

Worth mentioning

The UN weather agency says this year is "almost certain" to rank among the three hottest years on record.

And 2001-10 is undoubtedly the warmest 10-year period since the beginning of weather records in 1850, the agency said Thursday.

Data from the World Meteorological Organization released at UN climate negotiations confirmed a warming trend that has gone on for decades, which scientists attribute to man-made pollution trapping heat in the atmosphere.

WMO secretary general Michel Jarraud said this year's temperatures through October were at near-record levels. Data for November and December will be analyzed in early 2011, but were expected to be slightly cooler than normal. Still, there is a "significant possibility 2010 could be the warmest," Jarraud told reporters. The two other extraordinary years were 1998 and 2005. Jarraud said these three steaming years were within a fraction of a degree — 0.02 C — of each other.

This year also saw startling weather events: A deadly summer heat wave in Russia with temperatures in Moscow soaring to a record 38.2 C. Devastating floods in Pakistan were part of the same weather anomaly, Jarraud said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian heat wave

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working?

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Latin dance party

If you love Latin music, this will be an event you won't want to miss. The 'Lectrifying Latin Dance Party is taking place Sunday at 7 p.m. at the World Trade and Convention Centre in downtown Halifax.

People will be movin' and shakin' to the music of several acts, including the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra with music director Dinuk Wijeratne and Halifax's Latin music ensemble Los Primos. There will also be a live auction and the chance to learn to dance the salsa with the Halifax Salseros Salsa Dance Company. Tickets are $20 per person. For more information, see novascotiayouthorchestra.com or call 423-5984.

METRO

Three days to play

ENVIRONMENT CANADA IS PREDICTING A WARM WINTER FOR HALIFAX. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?



Gary Jenner
PORT WILLIAMS
It makes me really sad because I snowboard quite a lot.



Mark Perry
DARTMOUTH
It makes me think more about climate change and how fast it's affected us. It's a little bit worrisome.

Director of Academy Award winning film The Lives of Others takes on a big budget action-romance in The Tourist ◐ Finding a balance between humour and seriousness ◐ How it's tough to cast women opposite the scintillating Angelina Jolie



▶ Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie

From the Cold War to hot romance



NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

After earning international acclaim — and an Academy Award — for his dark Cold War drama and debut film The Lives of Others, German-born director Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck wanted to try a slightly different change of pace. And he couldn't have gotten much more different tonally than The Tourist, a big-budget romance caper starring Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. Henckel von Donnersmarck spoke with Metro about fixing up the film's script, cutting out laughs and why Angelina Jolie doesn't have any female co-stars.

You're credited with writing the film, along with two other writers. Can you take us through the process of each writer's contribution?

Since so much of it was before I came on board, I don't really know. I read a script that Julian Fellowes, Christopher McQuarrie and, I think, three or four others had contributed to. Or four or five others. I mean, it was massive. And still it was a script that nobody — and I'm sure those two actors — would have been happy with. It was just one of those scripts that had been developed into so many different directions under so many different influences. You could tell that it was slightly somehow a schizophrenic script.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck

What were your biggest changes to the script when you took it on?

I wanted to make it into a true love story between these people, and I also wanted people to think throughout the whole film, "Is this guy the person they're looking for or not?" And for them to flip back and forth. For this not to be a film that somehow a surprise comes out of nowhere at the end, but for it to really be a constant cat-and-mouse game. And then it was also shaping in the characters, giving them a kind of humour and humanity.

The finished film has a distinct sense of fun to it.

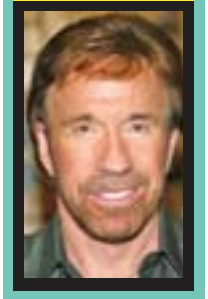
The interesting thing, when I screened a rough cut for the first time, for some people, it played really well, but it played too much like a comedy. People were laughing so much, and then I realized I'd gone a little too far in that whole kind of comedy thing. So I actually started cutting out a lot of the humour. … I don't want people to be laughing in this film, I want them to be smiling.

I noticed there are hardly any other women on screen besides Angelina Jolie.

There's not a single other female speaking on screen. I feel she's so scintillating and exciting as a woman, it's hard for other women to really be able to shine next to her. … She's enough woman for an entire film.

2 scene

News in brief



Actor Chuck Norris for years played a Texas Ranger on television. Now he's going to become one in real life.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry is scheduled to present the actor and executive director of Walker, Texas Ranger with a designation as an honorary member of the famed law enforcement group Thursday.

Ceremonies to honour the 70-year-old martial arts star will take place at a Texas Rangers office in suburban Dallas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police: 'Person of interest' in Hollywood publicist's slaying shoots, kills self at L.A. hotel



Movie review See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●● | Worth watching ●●● | Yawn ●● | Don't bother ●



Franco reaches new heights

127 Hours
Genre: Drama
Director: Danny Boyle
Stars: James Franco, Kate Mara, Amber Tamblyn
●●●●

Danny Boyle's first film since Slumdog Millionaire earned a reputation for shock on the festival circuit where several audience members were dragged from the theater after fainting. A plot synopsis will explain why: the film is about the true story of Aron Ralston who in 2003 was trapped in a canyon for 5 days and was forced cut off his own arm to survive. Yes, the film is a grisly recreation of that painful reality, but it's also every bit as pulse-pounding and uplifting as Slumdog. Frankly, it's a better movie too.

James Franco stars as Ralston and gives the best performance of his career, guiding the audience through the ordeal with a mixture of charm and raw emotion. Boyle does a remarkable job of keeping his one-man show tense and entertaining, using every directorial trick he's compiled over the years and an unrelenting soundtrack.

127 Hours is a remarkable work of survival horror with an inspirational bent and slick style that elevates it above most entries in that genre. Even if the concept seems intimidating, it's worth the grueling experience. Boyle and Franco's work is so strong that even the most squeamish member of the audience will be cheering for that damn arm to come off.

PHIL BROWN



A tough balance of sad & funny

Faith, Fraud and Minimum Wage
Genre: Drama/Comedy
Director: George Mihalka
Stars: Callum Keither Rennie, Martha MacIsaac
●●½

An earnest parable about belief and the means by which it can be manipulated, George Mihalka's Faith, Fraud and Minimum Wage has a set-up that's halfway between Frank Capra and The Simpsons.

An alienated teenage girl (Martha MacIsaac) contrives a Jesus-shaped coffee stain on a donut shop wall and watches as it becomes a local sensation.

Adapting Halifax native Josh MacDonald's play Halo, director George Mihalka struggles to find the right balance of humour and melancholy, although he gets a strong performance from Calum Keith Rennie as the hoaxer's deceptively vulnerable dad.

ADAM NAYMAN





BALLET TRANSLATES WELL TO BIG SCREEN

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Ballet is inherently dramatic so it is no wonder the movies have frequently looked to pointe shoes and bun heads for inspiration. The first ballet moves captured on film were likely in turn-of-the-last-century animated films of Alexander Shiryaev, whose crude but beautiful films used drawings and puppets as an early form of dance notation.

Since then the movies have been dancing with the stars. Everyone from legendary performers like Mikhail Baryshnikov to gifted amateurs like Natalie Portman, who plays a beautiful but troubled ballerina in this weekend's dark drama Black Swan, have done a cinematic grand jeté or two.

The most classic ballet movie has to be The Red Shoes. The 1948 classic interweaves on and off stage action to tell the story of a ballerina pulled between two men — a composer who loves her and an impresario who wants to make her a star. The British Film Institute labeled it one of "the best British films ever" and the movie inspired Kate Bush's song and album of the same name.



▶ A scene from the movie Center Stage.

The Red Shoes was nominated for four Oscars and took home a pair, which is two more than our next ballet film, even though it was nominated for eleven. The Turning Point (which ties The Color Purple for most nominations with no wins) starred Shirley MacLaine and Anne Bancroft as life long rivals; one who left the ballet to become a wife and mother, the other who stayed and became a star. Audrey Hepburn, Doris Day and Grace Kelly were all offered the lead roles, but turned them down. After seeing the movie Hepburn regretted her decision. "That was the one film," she said, "that got away from me."

There are dozens of Hollywood ballet movies. It's almost tutu much (you had to know that pun was coming); White Nights, Center Stage (with Avatar's Zoe Saldana), Billy Elliot, The Company (made with the cooperation of the Joffrey Ballet) and even the South Korean horror film Wishing Stairs feature stories about fictional ballet dancers, but there are many interesting ballet documentaries as well.

The history of the Ballet Russe of Monte Carlo is touchingly and lovingly told in Ballets Russes, an intimate documentary focused on the founders of modern ballet. Also fascinating is La danse — Le ballet de l'Opéra de Paris, director Frederick Wiseman's fly-on-the-wall look at the production of seven ballets by the Paris Opera Ballet.

Tarantino served up and roasted

Director's long-delayed roast was a record-setter for attendance Roth steals the show with offside jokes

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Filmmaker Eli Roth, left, actor Samuel L. Jackson and director Quentin Tarantino, right, attend the Quentin Tarantino Friars Club Roast at the New York Hilton Hotel on Wednesday.

Filmmaker Eli Roth brought shock and awe to the podium of a Friar's Club Roast of actor Quentin Tarantino on Wednesday night, saying it was a roaster's responsibility to be sick and distasteful.

He didn't disappoint, covering ground that would make Richard Pryor blush — and offering no apologies.

"Pretty much what people say about Hostel 2, I want them to say about my speech," Roth said referring to his 2007 horror flick.

Roth ripped the Weinstein's — filmmakers Harvey and Bob — who were sitting on the dais, joked about dead comic Greg Giraldo and poked fun at Tarantino's physical appearance. He also alluded to Tarantino's alleged foot fetish saying, "Quentin's got a bigger collection of women's shoes than Dachau."

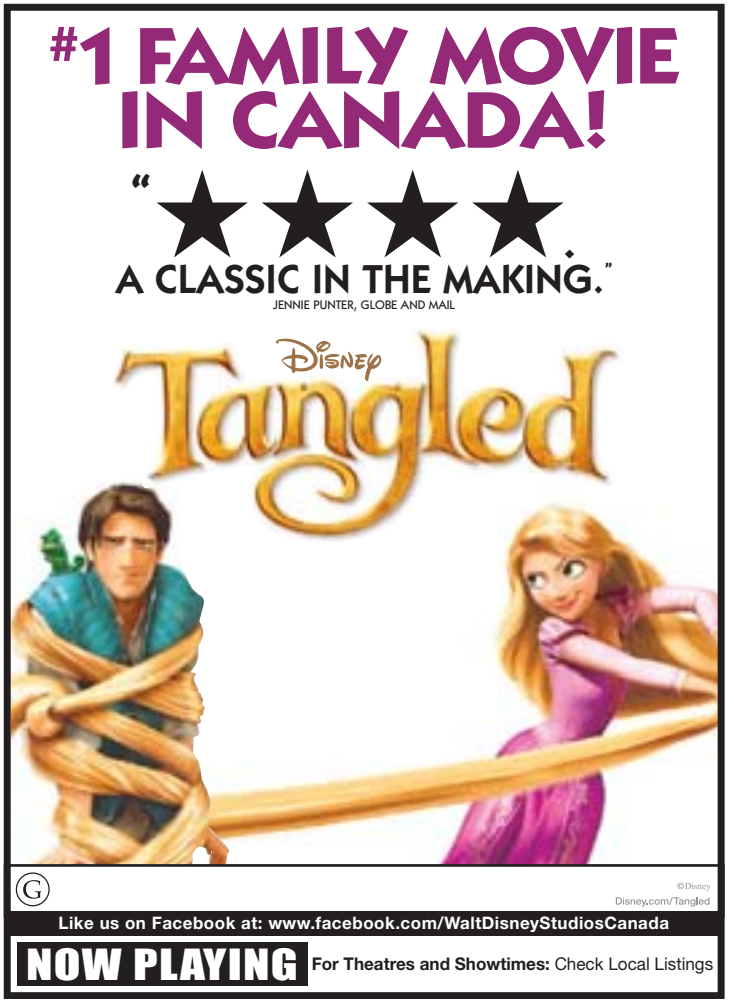
Joining Roth at the event in New York was Sarah Silverman, Uma Thurman, Brett Ratner and roastmaster Samuel L. Jackson, who referred to the pack as a "true collection of freaks." Then he thanked Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, for designing Tarantino's face, and kicked off the show.

Originally scheduled for October, the roast was postponed because of the death of Tarantino's longtime film editor and close friend Sally Menke. Freddie Roman of the Friar's Club said he feared the change in dates would lead to a lower turnout, but it seemed to have the opposite effect.

The event packed the Hilton ballroom, drawing a record-setting crowd of nearly 2,300. That's unprecedented for the fraternal organization.

While some of the acts were clearly funny, others were not as engaging. Harvey Keitel spent more time talking about Reservoir Dogs than making jokes. Ratner, a director, missed some of his timing cues, and Michael Madsen looked as if he had just rolled out of bed. While Keitel was spared by most, Ratner and Madsen were heavily attacked throughout the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 3 TO THURS., DEC. 9. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal star in the emotional comedy Love & Other Drugs, which opened last week.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Burlesque (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 1:10-1:30-3:55-4:15-6:50-7:10-9:35-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 1:10-1:30-3:55-4:15-6:50-7:10-9:35-9:55 Dolby Stereo Tue-Thu 1:10-1:30-3:55-4:15-6:50-7:10-9:35-9:55
Due Date (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-7:15-9:35
Faith, Fraud, & Minimum Wage (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:45 Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:45
Faster (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:15-3:50-6:25-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 1:15-3:50-7:15-9:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 1:15-3:50-6:25-9:10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-1:45-3-4:30-5:15-7:30-8:30-9
Love & Other Drugs (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:6:30-9:20
Megamind 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:05-3:35-6:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun-Mon 1:05-3:35-6:20-8:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 1:05-3:35-6:20-8:05 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-3:35-6:20-8:50
Morning Glory (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:25-9
The Next Three Days (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:50
Red (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Wed 1:20-4:15-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Thu 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:40
Tangled (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7-9:35
Tangled 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:45-9:20
Unstoppable (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:25

IMAX
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1: The IMAX Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-6:20-9:30

OXFORD THEATRE
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Fair Game (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon 7-9:30 Tue 4:30-7-9:30 Wed-Thu 7-9:30

PARK LANE
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Burlesque (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:05-3:45-6:30-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:10
Due Date (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:45-4:05-7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-7:20-9:45
Faster (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:40-4-7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7:10-9:30
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 1-2-4:10-6:20-7:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 2-6:20-7:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 1-2-4:10-6:20-7:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:20-4:10-6:20-7:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Thu 3:20-4:10-7:30
Love & Other Drugs (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Carlo (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 1:30
National Theatre Live: Hamlet (STC) Stadium Seating Thu 7
Tangled (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-3:40-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:10
Unstoppable (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-3:55-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:55-6:40-9 Stadium Seating Thu 3:55-9:30

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Burlesque (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15-6:45-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20
Conviction (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:50-4:10-7-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Faster (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7:15-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:10-4:20-7:15-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:15-9:25
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri 6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat 2:15-6:30-9:30 Stadium Seating, Digital Sun 2:15-7:20 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Thu 7:20
Love & Other Drugs (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Megamind (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-8:50 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:45-4-6:40-8:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-8:50
Tangled 3D (G) Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:05 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-6:50-9:05 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9:05

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Burlesque (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:45-3:45-7:10-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:10-10
Due Date (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:50-3:50-6:25-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 6:25-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12:55-3:50-6:25-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:25-9:15
Faster (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:55-3:55-7:35-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-4:05-7:35-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:55-3:55-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:55-3:55-7:35-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:50-9:40
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12-12:30-3:20-4-6:30-7:45-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:45-1:10-3:10-4:25-6:30-7:45-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12-3:20-4-6:30-7:25-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12-12:30-3:20-4-6:30-7:45-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12-12:30-3:20-4-6:30-7:25-9:50
Love & Other Drugs (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:15-3:25-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:15-3:25-6:45-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:15-3:25-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:15-3:25-6:45-9:30
Megamind 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:25-3:30-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:05-3:25-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:25-3:30-6:35-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:25-3:30-6:40-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:35-9:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Pasquale Encore (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 2
Morning Glory (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1-4:05-7:25-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1-4:05-7:05-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1-4:05-7:25-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-4:05-7:05-9:55
The Next Three Days (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:05-3:15-6:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:55-3:05-6:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:05-3:15-6:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:05-3:15-6:20-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:05-3:15-6:20-9:25
Red (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:40-3:35-6:55-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:55-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:40-3:35-6:55-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:35
Tangled 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 12:35-3:40-7:05-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-7:05-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:35-3:40-7-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:35-3:40-7:05-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:35-3:40-7-9:45
Unstoppable (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:10-3:10-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:20-3:35-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:10-3:10-6:15-9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 12:10-3:10-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:10-3:10-6:15-9:10

TRURO

TRURO
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
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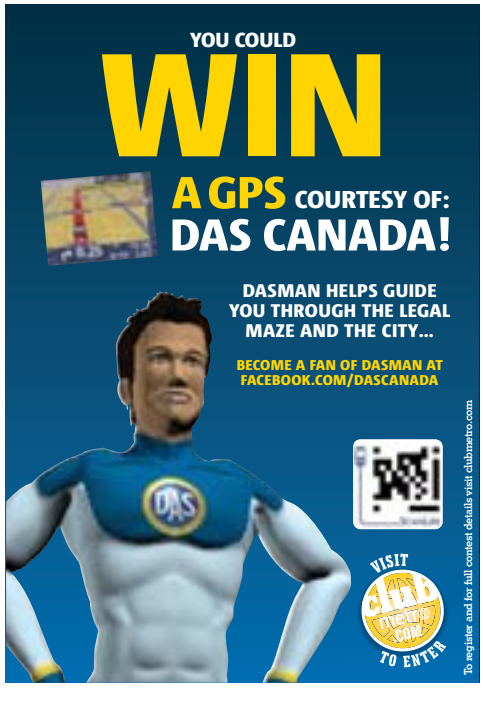
Burlesque (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 6:35-9:15 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 3:05-6:35-9:15 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:35-9:15
Due Date (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:20-6:45-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
Faster (14) Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:15-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:25 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 3-6:30-9:25 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 3-8 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 8
Love & Other Drugs (14) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:05 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:30-6:40-9:05 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9:05
Megamind (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:10-6:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:55
The Next Three Days (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 9
Tangled (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 3:25-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon 9:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue-Thu 6:50-9:10

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Burlesque (PG) No Passes Fri 6:35-9:10 Sat 3:05-6:35-9:10 Sun 3:05-5:50-8:25 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:25
Conviction (14) Fri 7-9:30 Sat 2:50-7-9:30 Sun 2:50-6:15-8:45 Mon-Thu 6:15-8:45
Faster (14) Fri 7:05-9:20 Sat 3:30-7:05-9:20 Sun 3:30-6:20-8:35 Mon-Thu 6:20-8:35
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat 2:45-7:30 Sun 2:45-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Love & Other Drugs (14) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat 3:20-6:45-9:15 Sun 3:20-6-8:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:30
Megamind (G) Sat-Sun 3:15
The Next Three Days (PG) Fri-Sat 6:30-9:25 Sun-Thu 5:45-8:40
Tangled (G) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 3-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10







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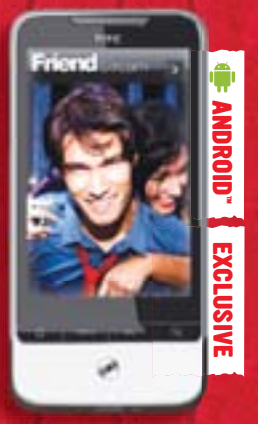
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7th heaven



FAR AND WIDE

Music

The Juno Awards are looking back at the past 40 years of music with a new book called Music from Far and Wide. The hardcover collection of stories, images and anecdotes spans the history of the awards, and also features an introduction by Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy.

INCEPTION

DVD

Christopher Nolan and Leonardo DiCaprio's brainteaser, Inception, gets the small screen release on Tuesday.

Special features include Nolan talking about his unusual concept for the film and the set.

PENGUIN CLASSICS

Charity

To mark World AIDS Day, Penguin Classics and Indigo Books and Music launched a new collection of classic works of literature to raise funds to help eliminate AIDS in Africa. Books in the series include Bram Stoker's Dracula, Henry James' The Turn of the Screw, and Joseph Conrad's The Secret Agent; Chapters.indigo.ca.


▶ Oldfield

ROYAL WEDDING

Rumor

All bets are off at one U.K. bookmaker, as the odds put Bruce Oldfield as the overwhelming favourite to design Kate Middleton's dress. Oldfield is no stranger to dressing society figures. To date, he has created gowns for Princess Diana, the British Prime Minister's wife Samantha Cameron and the Duchess of Cornwall, to name a few. However, neither Oldfield nor Prince William's official residence, Clarence House, have confirmed the Royal commission.

HOW TO DISAPPEAR

Book

Looking to get away from it all — or maybe just the holiday season?

Authors Frank M. Ahearn and Eileen C. Horan's How To Disappear offers tips on how to erase your digital footprint, leave false trails, and vanish without a trace.



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Movies

Chances are you've seen the film a few too many times on the small screen.

So, maybe it's time to watch Frank Capra's A Wonderful Life on the big screen.

The annual holiday classic will be shown at select Cineplex theatres across Canada on Dec. 8 and Dec. 12



ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

Fashion

Cufflinks generally fall into that best-avoided category of dry and ordinary Christmas gifts along with ties, house slippers and cologne sets. But Alexander McQueen's skull fasteners make a roguish alternative. Complete with a grimacing smile and black Swarovski eyes, these gems will add a cool, macabre edge to any man's evening look. $255; alexandermcqueen.com.

Mix of Six

Wizard of Oz

Musical

Neptune Theatre is following the yellow brick road for its holiday blowout this year with the 1939 musical version of this popular story for all ages. For tickets and show times, visit neptunetheatre.com. Neptune Theatre's Fountain Hall. Through Jan. 9.

The Nutcracker

Theatre

Symphony Nova Scotia is once again presenting this popular show that weaves its magic through a combination of larger-than-life puppetry, live music, and dramatic narrative dance. For tickets and show times, visit symphonynovascotia.ca. Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Friday through Dec. 11

A Christmas Carol

Play

This holiday classic will be performed in Victorian costume and with dramatic reading and musical interludes and dance. Tickets are $22 for adults, $17 for seniors and students and $12 for children, with proceeds going to support Bella Rose Arts Centre. Friday and Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

Portia White

Gala Concert

Funds are being raised for The Portia White Award, a music scholarship of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust for a promising voice student. Tickets are $15. Faith Tabernacle. Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Soul Kitchen

Local music

Play the slots, then listen to some great local music as this popular band plays for two nights at the city's casino.

There is no cover charge for either of the shows. Casino Nova Scotia's Harbourfront Room. Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m.

Tree lighting

Event

This latest community event to kick off the holidays features several school choirs in performance, fire works, and free hot chocolate and cooks. The event will also see Santa Claus himself pay a visit. Sullivan's Pond. Saturday, 4:30 to 6:15 p.m. Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front W. Dec. 4

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES FOR ACTIVISION



▶Musician Gene Simmons at Paramount Studios in Hollywood.

Sound Check



ALAN CROSS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Shopping list

- **KISS:** bit.ly/9pJFPy
- **U2:** bit.ly/fb2uNE
- **Coldplay:** bit.ly/dCDXU9
- **Weezer:** weezer.cinderblock.com
- **Soundgarden:** soundgardenworld.com/shop
- **Third Man Records:** third-

Look at this," said Gene Simmons, picking up a KISS coffee mug from the table in front of us last weekend in Montreal. "This is one of 3,000 branded and trademarked KISS items. We're also bringing back the KISS coffin because it's sold out."

"What does it go for? Is it $7,000?"

"Something like that," he said with a capitalist grin.

Ten years ago, buying band-branded swag had to be done at a concert, a record store or a downmarket shop that offered cheap knock-offs. Even then, choices were limited to t-shirts, stickers and, if you were really lucky, a belt buckle. The Internet has changed all that.

With CD sales cratering, artists are seeking revenue relief from online merchandise sales. For example, the U2 fan can find everything from t-shirts to DVDs to a selection of beautiful black-and-white lithographs that I've never seen anywhere else.

For $50 US, you can get a gift certificate to U2.com, which comes with some recordings that will never be available in stores. Or if you'd prefer U2 on your tree instead of under it, there's a rather pretty Christmas ornament based on the cover of All That You Can't Leave Behind.

Oh, and speaking of things to hang on the tree, there's a really cool Bowie decoration featuring his Aladdin Sane persona in a fetching Santa hat.

Coldplay's Viva Coldplay fleece blanket is on sale for $29.95. Weezer was selling their own branded Snuggies, but they're sold out. Maybe eBay.

Soundgarden has the usual t-shirts for sale but what caught my eye were the ornate concert posters, including one from this past year's Lollapalooza in Chicago ($25 US).

The worst place for me, though, is Third Man Records, the label owned by Jack White. Vinyl junkies should approach at their own risk. I've got my eye on the White Stripes Vinyl Starter Merchandise Collection which, even at $499 US, looks like a bargain. Plus I'm in Nashville this week, home of the physical Third Man store. It could get ugly at customs.

Drake to host Junos in 2011

Drake will come home to host the Juno Awards next year.

The 24-year-old Toronto native will return to his hometown for the awards bash, which will be held at the Air Canada Centre on March 27 and broadcast on CTV.

Drake — whose real name is Aubrey Graham — won his first two Junos at this year's show in St. John's, N.L., taking awards for best new artist and rap recording of the year.

The former Degrassi star won months before releasing his debut album, Thank Me Later, in June.

The record has since been certified platinum in Canada and the U.S.

This year's award show used a rotating cast of presenters, while comedian Russell Peters hosted the two previous Juno broadcasts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Drake

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H&M
Halifax Watch Co. - *20% off*
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Quilts Etc.
Randy River
Reitmans
Ricki's - *20% off*
Rite Fit
Roots - *20% off*
RUA Sports Fanatic
Samuel & Co.
Showcase
Sirens
Smart Set
SoftMoc
Spinners
Stitches - *BOGO $1*
Stokes - *20% off*
Sunglass Hut - *20% off*
Suzy Shier - *40% off*
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The Disney Store
Thyme
Tip Top Tailors
Urban Behaviour
West 49
What On Earth
Wicker Emporium
Winners/HomeSense

Participating retailers will pay the equivalent of both taxes on regularly-priced merchandise.
Some conditions apply. See individual retailers for details.

MIC MAC MALL

GAP ROOTS BCBGMAXAZRIA

GETTY IMAGES



Just the beginning for Will.i.am

▶ Black Eyed Peas frontman Will.i. Am.

On their new album, The Beginning, the Black Eyed Peas go more mainstream, even remastering the Dirty Dancing theme song. But "nothing is sacred," says Black Eyed Peas frontman Will.i.am.

Before The E.N.D., the Black Eyed Peas already sold loads of albums. Were you surprised with the seven million you sold?

Not at all. First, we hadn't done anything for four years. And Monkey Business, the previous album, was already a huge success. And when The E.N.D. came out, there were no more "physical" shops.

The electro style you've adopted has been quite surprising for your fans. Did you think it was a risk?

I remember when we were about to record The E.N.D., our manager asked us who we'd like to collaborate with: Beyoncé, Usher, Justin Timberlake? I said none of them.

I wanted to work with DJs like Boys Noize or David Guetta. Back in 2007, this was quite a crazy idea for a pop band. Why did we want this? Because club music was the only living music, and what the DJs are playing is what makes people dance. That's the rule.

Black Eyed Peas are, what, a remedy to our dark age? People need to dance to forget their woes?

Is it the law that makes you go home every day at 5 p.m.? Or you want to eat sushi but can only afford a sandwich? No.

The problem nowadays is that people are disconnected from each other. On the street, in a restaurant, we are playing with our smartphones and we can't have a normal conversation. We're in our little technological bubble.

That's why I like to go to concerts, clubs or football games — for that collective experience.

When did you write your new album, The Beginning?

When we were on tour. The track XOXOXO, for instance, comes from the text messages I got from my girlfriend [he starts to sing]: "Baby everywhere I go, I'm not alone, you let me know, you're on my phone, you're in my dreams, you're on my screen, you send me X & Os."

As a matter of fact, I recorded a lot of stuff on my phone. For The Time (Dirty Bit), I was on a plane when I recorded the original beat.

Remastering the hit [(I've Had) The Time of My Life] is a bit of a secret shame, isn't it?

I know! People say, "Why did you destroy this song? How did you dare to do that?"

I don't care. It's like saying, "Why did you use this grape to make marmalade? You were supposed to make wine out of it." Or being angry because I turn smoking pants into shorts! Or wearing a smoking jacket with rubber boots!

Nothing is sacred — so neither is music. For me, any piece of music is like an ingredient.

Tell me more about David Guetta, who wrote a track on your new album. Some people say he's gone too commercial and away from the underground...

People who listen to his or our music just want to escape. They don't care about that crap. You know, besides some musicians who want to stay aside, most of them want to have success. These are the ones who are critical. I like the underground music. Not the little disputes coming from there.

The best is to seduce both the mainstream and the underground scene. Prince, Michael Jackson — everybody loves them.

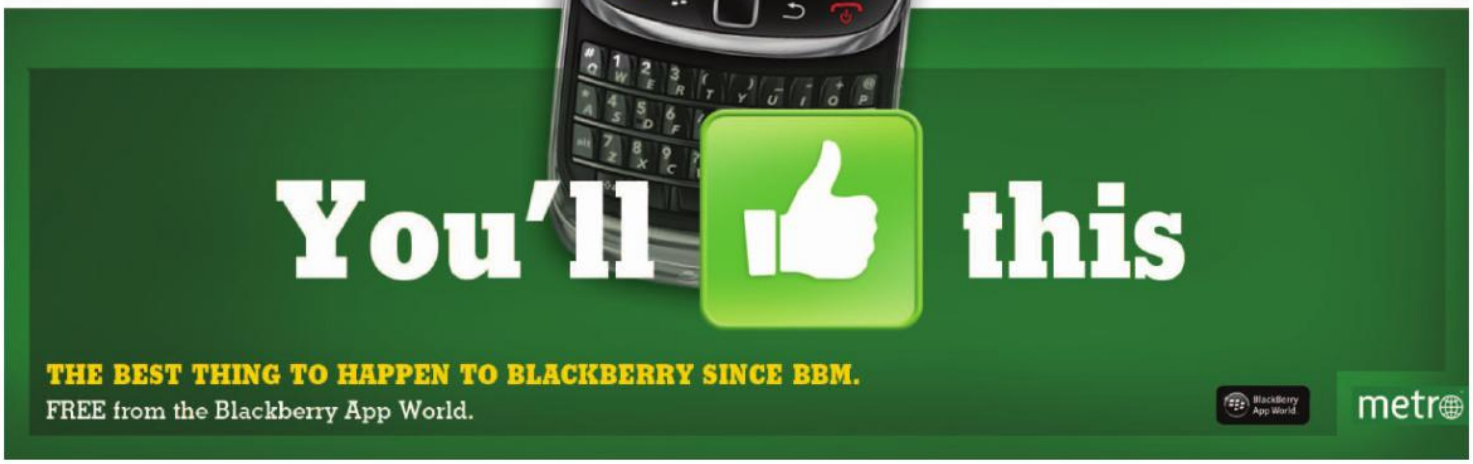
Speaking of Michael Jackson, can you tell me of the songs you released with him?

No. Why? Because he is not with us anymore to give his blessing on them. Michael was a perfectionist, always willing to do better. Making an album with the songs we wrote together would be disrespectful. Sony asked me to do it, but I declined.

Will you ever listen to the Michael album?

Sure I will. But I know that one of the songs that already came out on the Internet, Michael wasn't totally happy with. I remember him calling me in 2008 because he was furious — well, in his way.

METRO WORLD NEWS



He's a playboy past his prime

[illegible] Certain Age ◆ New comedy backed by Ray Romano



▶ Scott Bakula plays at single life in Men of a Certain Age.

Scott Bakula, husband and father of four, gets a kick out of portraying a feckless playboy at mid-life on TNT's Men of a Certain Age.

"I don't hope and dream of that other lifestyle, but it's fun to play a character that's living it. I have friends who live it, and I'm happy to let them have it because it's not an easy road out there," said Bakula, who plays Terry on the series that also stars Ray Romano and Andre Braugher.

"It's a struggle for my friends trying to date younger women or find somebody to get married and have a baby," Bakula said.

When TNT's Men of a Certain Age returns Dec. 6 for its second season, Terry finds he's got decisions to confront about work, life and growing up as he turns 50.

He's making progress, Bakula said. Shelving his dreams of acting success, Terry is working at the car dealership managed by buddy Owen (Braugher) and trying to adjust to the daily grind.

Terry is "such a mess," Bakula said, but he's trying. A rekindled relationship even tests his womanizing ways.

Bakula, 56, whose credits include TV's Quantum Leap and Star Trek: Enterprise and the movie The Informant!, is delighted to be part of a project that he says "felt a little risky." The three middle-age characters at its centre aren't the demographic prized by youth-obsessed advertisers.

Romano's clout, the result of his hit CBS sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond, is why it's on the air.

"A show like this doesn't get made unless somebody like Ray wants to do it," Bakula said.

He finds irony in its time slot, opposite Monday Night Football, and notes that women make up a substantial part of the audience for Men of a Certain Age.

Whether female viewers are looking for middle-age beefcake or insights into their own partners' psyches, Bakula is glad the show has cultivated a following. Bakula said he and his wife, actress Chelsea Field, enjoy watching it together.

Making the series is "just a blast. We laugh so much," he said of his fellow cast mates.

The show may be a ground-breaker with an episode (the Jan. 10 series finale) that includes a boys-gone-wild Palm Springs getaway centred on Terry's 50th birthday – and colonoscopies for all.

A DVD with season one's 10 episodes was recently released, with bonuses including cast commentary, deleted scenes and a gag reel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Aguilera's in love with a new man, but taking it slow

Christina Aguilera is opening up about the new man in her life, Matthew Rutler.

She tells People magazine, "There is love there."

Aguilera, who recently separated from her husband, Jordan Bratman, met Rutler while working with him on Burlesque, her new movie.

"Once I filed for divorce, we started dating," she says. "I'm not trying to jump into anything. I just left a five-year marriage. I'm taking it slow and trying to be happy."

METRO



▶ Aguilera is dating Matthew Rutler.

Snoop Dogg's player anthem for Prince Wills

Everyone seems to be getting excited about Prince William's upcoming wedding to Kate Middleton, including Snoop Dogg, who recorded a new track to be played at William's bachelor party, according to People.

"When I heard the royal family wanted to have me perform in celebration of Prince William's marriage, I knew I had to give them a little something," the rapper says, adding that the track, Wet, is "the perfect anthem for Prince William or any player to get the club smoking."

There's been no official word that he'll be asked to attend the party, though.

METRO



▶ Snoop Dogg has created a song called Wet for Prince Williams' bachelor party.

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Britney Spears is denying allegations that her boyfriend is abusive toward her.

Britney strikes back against abuse talk

The singer's rep says legal team will take action

Britney Spears is striking back over rumours that her boyfriend, Jason Trawick, is abusive toward her.

"Suffice it to say, that Jason Trawick has never laid a hand on Britney," her reps say in a statement.

"This is just another example of the irresponsible nature of the tabloid media relying on shoddy sources and false information for the sole purpose of selling magazines, without regard to the truth and without regard to who they hurt in the process.

"These irresponsible statements are defamatory.

"Britney Spears' legal team will be taking legal action against all of the appropriate parties."

METRO

Longoria didn't expect divorce

Eva Longoria never thought Tony Parker would be unfaithful.

She also didn't believe that she'd ever end up locked in the bitter divorce battle with him.

Basketball Wives star — and friend of Longoria — Tami Roman tells PopEater,

"You couldn't have told any of us that that wasn't a match made in heaven," she says.

Roman also added, "It was a shock, but on the other side of the coin, when you think about that basketball lifestyle and how many women are accessible, it shouldn't be that shocking.

"He's a young guy with lots of money, women and fame. It's really easy to get sidetracked."

METRO

Celebrity tweets



Sarah Silverman [@SarahKSilverman] Elderly woman in line to baord plane turned around and blew a long silent powerful burp onto my face.



Nicole Richie [@nicolerichie] Even though I'm not Jewish, I wouldn't turn away gifts for the next 8 days. Just putting it out there.



Ben Stiller [@RedHourBen] Best present I probably won't use too often: Limited edition 3D glasses from @justinbieber. Or Bieber's people. We're not sure. Thanks JB.

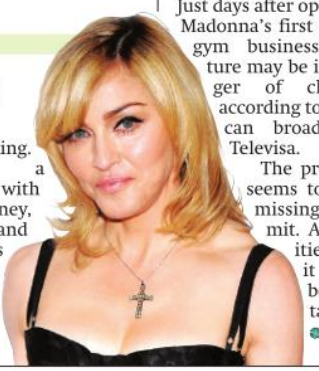
Talking points

Madge's gym lacks permit?

Just days after opening, Madonna's first in the gym business venture may be in danger of closing, according to Mexican broadcaster Televisa.

The problem seems to be a missing permit. Authorities say it must be obtained.

METRO



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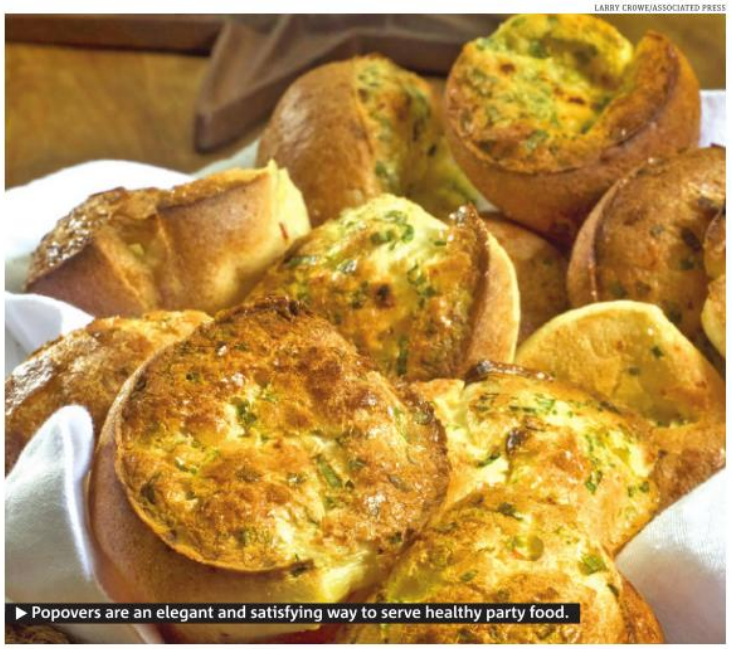


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Finally, a guilt-free party food to enjoy

Mini cocktail popovers have the irresistible carbs of a baked good, with less calories

LARRY CROWE/ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Popovers are an elegant and satisfying way to serve healthy party food.

Want to lighten up your holiday hors d'oeuvres? Cut out the middle.

Mini cocktail popovers are an elegant and satisfying choice for a healthy party food.

Even though they're satisfyingly eggy and have the irresistible carbs of a baked good, they're hollow in the centre so they pack fewer calories. They also are simple to prepare.

For these cocktail popover variations, a lighter version of the typical popover batter is used.

The recipe starts with skim milk and cuts out some of the egg yolks to trim the fat even further. And while a prudent amount of butter is used to add that unmistakable flavour, half of the standard amount is replaced with healthier extra-virgin olive oil.

For the lightest version, you could offer plain popovers or simply add fresh (or dried) herbs such as chives, tarragon or a blend to the batter.

Another way to boost the flavour is to add a few tablespoons of freshly grated Parmesan cheese and ground black pepper.

Other delicious yet guilt-free variations could include stuffing the popovers with a blend of whipped light cream cheese and chopped smoked salmon or even a piece of steamed asparagus wrapped in prosciutto.

Ingredients:

Batter
- 250 ml (1 cup) skim milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 large egg white
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter, melted
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt

Olive Cocktail Popovers
- 24 kalamata olives, pitted and chopped

Herbed Cheese Cocktail Popovers
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) light spreadable garlic and herb cheese

Herbed Pepper Cocktail Popovers
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped peppadew or jalapeno peppers (jalapenos are hotter)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) finely chopped scallions

Preparation:

1. Start to finish: 40 minutes (10 minutes active). Makes 30 servings.
2. Heat oven to 220 C (425 F). Set 2 mini muffin tins on a baking sheet. Coat tins with cooking spray, then place them (on the baking sheet) into the oven to heat.
3. Meanwhile, to make the batter, in a blender or food processor, combine milk, eggs, egg white, melted butter, olive oil, flour and salt. Blend for 15 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the container, then blend for another 30 seconds.
4. To make olive cocktail popovers, remove muffin tins from the oven and place 1 olive in each cup. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter on top of each olive. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Serve immediately.
5. To make herbed cheese cocktail popovers, remove muffin tins from oven and spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter into each cup. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Remove popovers from pans and set on a rack to cool.
When ready to serve, poke a hole in the bottom of each popover. Put cheese in a small sturdy plastic bag. Gather the bag and squeeze the cheese into one corner. With scissors, snip off the tip of the bag and squeeze 5 ml (1 tsp) of the cheese into each popover. Serve immediately.
6. To make herbed pepper popovers, mix peppers and scallions into batter. Remove muffin tins from oven and spoon a heaping tablespoon of batter into each cup. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown and crisp. Remove popovers from pans and set on a rack to cool.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Food in brief



Tips for your holiday party:
- For 20 guests, offer eight to 10 easy-to-handle tasty bites. (Six to eight per guest per hour.)
- Try to have preparations done before the guests arrive.
- Aside from alcoholic drinks have festive non-alcoholic alternatives available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

L'Chaim! More kosher liquors bring Hanukkah cheer this holiday season.

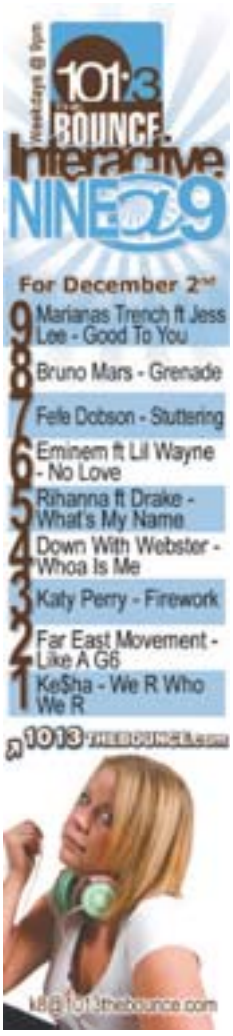
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Eat your veggies & love every bite

This roasted vegetable stew is a great way to get your dose of nutrients and warm up on a cold day



▶ The roasted vegetable stew features carrots, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and more.

This roasted vegetable stew is a delicious way to get your daily intake of vegetables!

Serve this nutrient-rich stew over whole-wheat couscous or wide egg noodles.

If you like, top with crumbled feta.

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, combine carrots, parsnips, garlic, sweet potato and onion; toss with oil, rosemary, salt and pepper.
2. Spread on a large non-stick baking sheet; roast in a 220 C (425 F) oven for 25 minutes or until vegetables are just tender, stirring halfway through.
3. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, whisk vegetable broth with tomato paste; bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat, stir in roasted vegetables, tomatoes and beans; simmer, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until vegetables are completely tender.
5. Stir in parsley, vinegar and hot sauce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

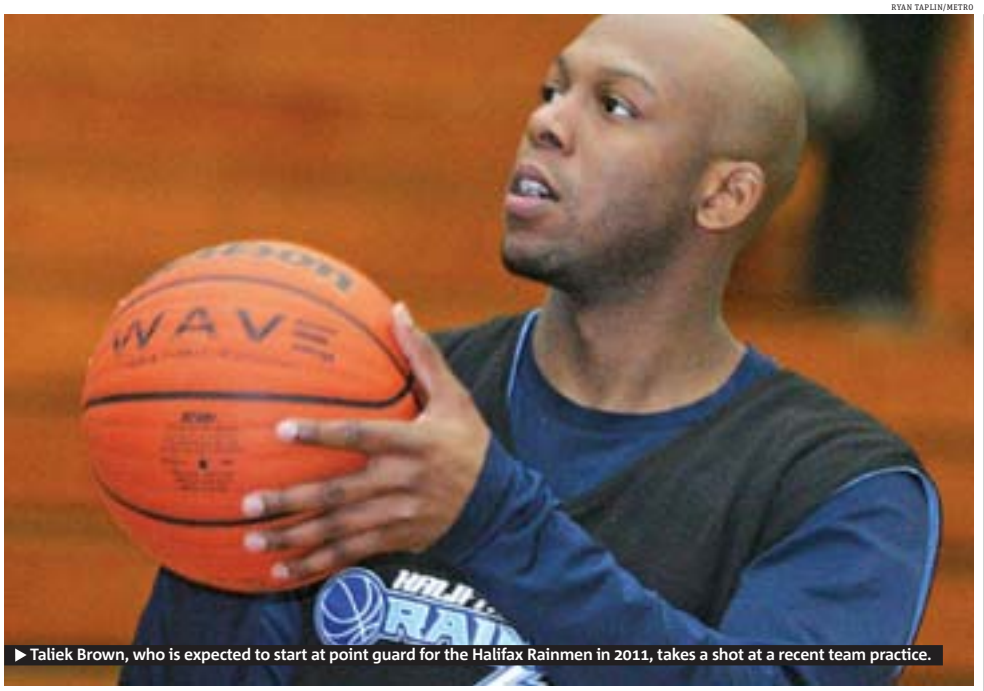
Ingredients:

- 4 each carrots and parsnips, sliced diagonally 1 cm (1/2 inch) thick
- 4 cloves garlic, quartered
- 1 sweet potato , cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) chunks
- 1 onion, cut into wedges
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 500 ml (2 cups) vegetable broth
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) tomato paste
- 2 greenhouse tomatoes, chopped
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsely
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) balsamic vinegar
- 5 ml (1 tsp) green pepper hot sauce (or to taste)



- Point guard brings a wealth of championship experience to Rainmen
- The six-foot-one New York native claimed an NCAA Division I title with Connecticut in 2004

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Taliek Brown, who is expected to start at point guard for the Halifax Rainmen in 2011, takes a shot at a recent team practice.

Brown hopes to teach Rainmen how to win



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Rainmen want to learn how to win, and Taliek Brown hopes he can show them how.

The 28-year-old is a champion at one of basketball's highest levels, having claimed an NCAA Division I crown as a starting point guard with the Connecticut Huskies in 2004.

Since then, Brown has gone on to capture championships in Croatia, Bulgaria and Macedonia during a six-year professional career that has taken him across the globe.

"Every team I go to now, I just try to be a winner," says Brown, who is expected to fill the shoes of departed all-star Gary Ervin.

The Rainmen are entering their fourth season and made their first playoff appearance last April when they were swept in the Premier Basketball League semifinals. Brown's winning mentality can only help a team that is looking to take the next step and challenge perennial contenders such as the Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry and the Rochester Razorsharks.

"I try to keep everybody together as a team," Brown said. "We have the weapons, but the only way we're going to win is if everyone's on the same page."

The six-foot-one native of Queens, N.Y., averaged 7.8 points and 6.7 assists during his four-year career at Connecticut, gaining valuable experience feeding the ball to future NBA stars Ben Gordon and Emeka Okafur.

Although Brown isn't expected to be as prolific a scorer as Ervin, who averaged 14.6 points per game, Rainmen owner Andre Levingston has described him as a "better overall point guard" and a "guy who runs your basketball club."

"I like to push the tempo of the game, try to get everybody involved, and just run the team out there," Brown said. "Do what I've got to do to get the team wins."

"He's just a winner. The kid is amazing to watch. Within the first half-hour (of practice), he knew all our sets. You showed it to him once, he got it."
RAINMEN OWNER ANDRE LEVINGSTON ON TALIEK BROWN

Rainmen lock up Dollard



The Halifax Rainmen have another player under contract after signing six-foot-eight forward Josh Dollard on Thursday.

Dollard spent two NCAA Division I seasons at Auburn, averaging 12.5 points and 7.0 rebounds in 2006-07 before being "dismissed" in 2008 for violating the school's athletic policy. He played at the Division II level in 2008-09 at South Carolina Aiken.

Owner Andre Levingston said Dollard adds "toughness" and "scoring" in the paint.

The Rainmen, who also signed forward Kavon Jones, have six players under contract and 15 players at training camp.

METRO

Moose look to break four-game losing skid

The Halifax Mooseheads are hoping to shake a slump as they wrap up a five-game road trip in Quebec on the weekend.

The Mooseheads (9-19-1) have lost four straight and travelled more than 700 kilometres by bus on Thursday for visits with the Val-d'Or Foreurs (15-13-2) on Friday and the Rouyn-Noranda Huskies (4-23-2) on Saturday.

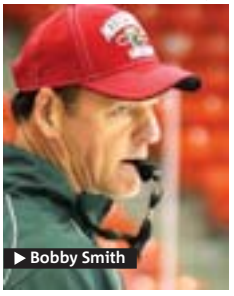
The Mooseheads lost 2-1 to the Shawinigan Cataractes on Wednesday.

"I think the guys are quite comfortable playing on the road … (Wednesday) was really a very good game but we've got to learn how to win these games when we're right there," said Mooseheads head coach Bobby Smith.

Forwards Gabriel Desjardins and Luca Ciampini both remain out with suspected concussions while goaltender Anthony Terenzio, described as "banged up" by Smith, also is not expected to play.

MATTHEW WUEST

METRO FILE



▶ Bobby Smith

HNS cracks down on concussions

Hockey Nova Scotia is unveiling a new policy designed to address head injuries.

HNS describes it as a "better-safe-than-sorry" policy, requiring coaches to remove any player suspected to have a concussion from participation and request the parents refer the player to a physician. The player is not allowed to participate in any activities until he or she has been treated by a physician. The policy will be fully implemented by Jan. 1.

METRO

4 sports

Hockey news

Jillian Saulnier
The Halifax native is one of three Nova Scotians named to Hockey Canada's women's under-22 team that will represent the country at the MLP Cup from Jan. 4 to 8 in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. Brittany Haverstock of Hammonds Plains and Jessica Wong of Baddeck are the others.





Brad Marchand
If his NHL job wasn't secure already, the Hammonds Plains native is all but locked in with the Boston Bruins after the club cleared up its salary-cap situation Thursday by trading Marco Sturm to the Los Angeles Kings. The 22-year-old rookie winger has three goals and six assists in 22 games.

Scan code for sports

LeBron burns Cleveland again

Former Cavs star scores 38 points in his first game back in old city

HEAT	CAVALIERS
118	90

First the Cleveland fans had their say, then LeBron James answered.

James led a 16-0 first-quarter surge that quieted the boos and abuse of fans who used to call him King, scoring 38 points to lead the Miami Heat to a 118-90 victory over the Cavaliers on Thursday night.

It was James' first game back in the city where he played for seven years before leaving via free agency, angering disbelieving fans who considered him one of their own.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points, James Jones 18 and Chris Bosh 15 for the Heat, a star-studded team which has seldom played like one in going 12-8 so far.

Daniel Gibson scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who have lost six of eight and now play seven of their next eight on the road.

James had 10 more points than Cleveland's starting lineup.

Ahead by 19 at the half, the Heat poured it on by shooting 73 per cent from the field in the third quarter, with James going 10 of 12 and Wade hitting all four of his attempts to stretch the lead to 30 points.

James sat on the bench for all of the fourth quarter, with dozens of security guards and police lining the team's entrance to the court and guarding against objects thrown at him. After the final seconds sifted away, he left without incident.

Until then, James frequently bantered with his former coaches with the Cavaliers and even talked to fans at courtside. The native of nearby Akron smiled while shooting free throws, in spite of what seemed like the entire arena chanting.

The early spurt left a crowd of 20,562 with nothing left to cheer except James' occasional missed shot. He didn't miss many, finishing 15 of 25 from the field, to go with eight assists and five rebounds.

James, of course, left the Cavaliers this summer to take his act to sunny Miami. Before the game, fans peppered him with obscene chants and booed every time he appeared on the giant monitors over mid-court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES



▶ LeBron James throws powder in the air Thursday prior to playing the Cavaliers.

Price stops 27 as Habs beat Devils

MONTREAL	NEW JERSEY
5	1

Montreal made the New Jersey Devils pay for the win the Canadiens let slip away.

Brian Gionta and Lars Eller scored in the first 1:38, Carey Price made 27 saves and the Canadiens beat the Devils 5-1 on Thursday night.

Tom Pyatt, Scott Gomez and Benoit Pouliot also scored to help Montreal rebound a night after blowing a two-goal, third-period lead in a 4-3 home loss to Edmonton.

"We all knew it wasn't good enough yesterday," Eller said. "It was mistakes that are easily fixed. We also quickly forgot about it. We've been good a coming back after a loss, and I think we showed that again. We were ready from the start today."

Unlike the Devils, who were never in the contest.

"They outplayed us in every aspect of the game," New Jersey coach John MacLean said. "They were prepared to play. We weren't."

Jason Arnott scored for the Devils.

New Jersey had seemingly pulled out of its early season funk, winning three of four coming in and four straight at home. This loss was a clearly a step in the wrong direction. "We were just kind of looking around," Devils forward Patrik Elias said. "When you play a quick team like that, they get on you. We were flat. That's the bottom line." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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To Russia with love

FIFA sent the World Cup into uncharted territory Thursday, handing the 2018 edition to Russia and going to Qatar in 2022.

Russia's selection came despite the no-show of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, but his influence still had an impact on FIFA's 22 voters as the bid won over England, Spain-Portugal and Belgium-Netherlands.

Qatar brings the World Cup to the smallest host ever, but one that has unparalleled financial clout to stage the world's biggest single-sport event. It overcame objections about holding the games in desert heat.

2

England was eliminated in the first round of 2018 voting, earning only two of the 22 votes. In the second round, Russia won an absolute majority with 13 votes.

It beat the United States in the final round of voting 14-8.

"We go to new lands," FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

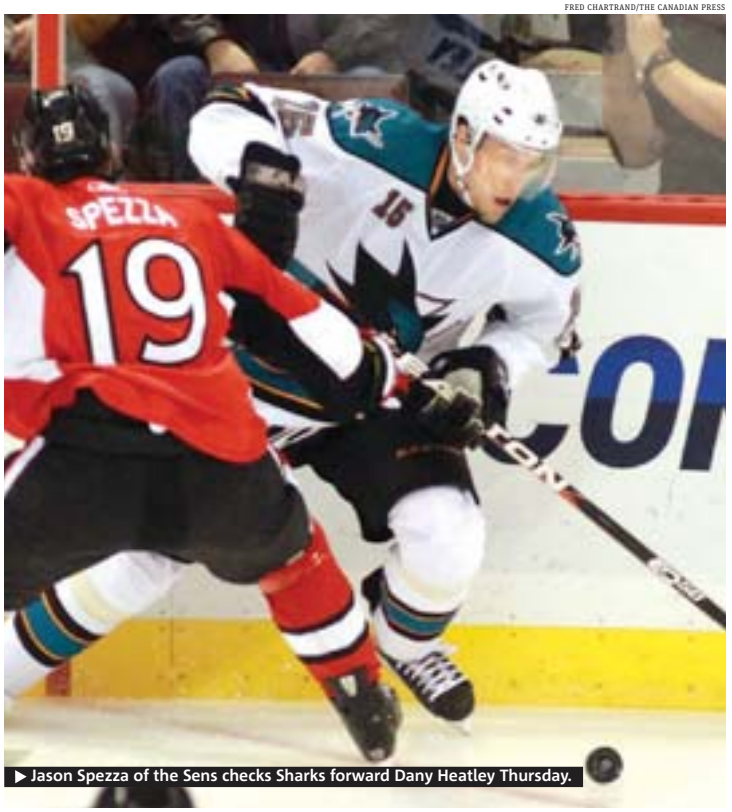
Often derided as a conservative organization, the decisions were a big gamble for FIFA, which could have gone for assured sporting and commercial success by handing the event to England and the United States.

Yet despite some criticism in FIFA study reports last month of the Russian and Qatar bids, it decided to go deep into Eastern Europe and right into the Persian Gulf.

"It is a great victory," Russian bid CEO Alexey Sorokin said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Jason Spezza of the Sens checks Sharks forward Dany Heatley Thursday.

Heatley lets his game do the talking

Former Senators star has assist in return to Ottawa, helps Sharks win Doesn't elaborate on reason for wanting out

Dany Heatley expected Senators fans to let him have it in his return to Ottawa, and he wasn't disappointed.

The San Jose forward was booed and serenaded with chants of "Heatley sucks" the moment he stepped on the ice at Scotiabank Place Thursday for the pre-game warm-up before the Sharks took on the Senators.

As the seats filled for the start of the game, those chants continued into the first period along with a chorus of boos every time No. 15 touched the puck. But Heatley did get the last laugh Thursday, collecting one assist as his Sharks blanked the Senators 4-0.

When Ottawa forward Jason Spezza knocked Heatley to the ice early on, it drew a loud cheer from the crowd.

There was some variation to the crowd's displeasure as chants of "traitor" were thrown into the mix. They also started to boo whenever Heatley came near the puck.

Heatley, however, still isn't shedding much light on his reasons for wanting out of Ottawa in the first place. He insisted again Thursday that his departure was about nothing more than wanting a change after sensing that his role diminished during his four seasons with the team.

That explanation has never sat well with Ottawa fans, who have made him a target for their scorn ever since.

"I felt it was best to move on," Heatley said after the morning skate.

"It's not like I woke up one day and decided to do it. I felt that way for a long time my last season here. I did talk a lot with the people in charge here at that time and at the end I didn't think it could be resolved."

While Heatley says he has no regrets about the Sept. 12, 2009, deal that sent him to San Jose for Milan Michalek, Jonathan Cheechoo and a second-round draft pick, he admits he no longer listens to the rumours and innuendo about the matter.

Many in Ottawa still believe that Heatley's reasons for requesting the trade run much deeper than just needing a change.

"Those are fans and some of the media that chose to be that way," he said. "The media has a job to do; fans can say what they want. Some media do their job and some are a little overboard, but that's the way it is."

He adds that he's been through this before and that once the game starts, all the external issues no longer matter.

"It is what it is," said Heatley. "I'm happy to see a lot of people in this town. I met a lot of great people during my time here and the people that cast me as a villain that's fine. I'm just going to go out there and play hockey." THE CANADIAN PRESS

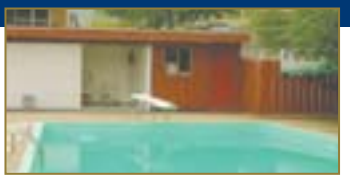


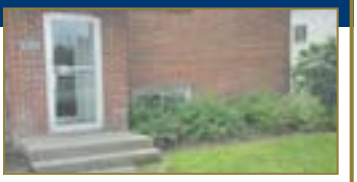
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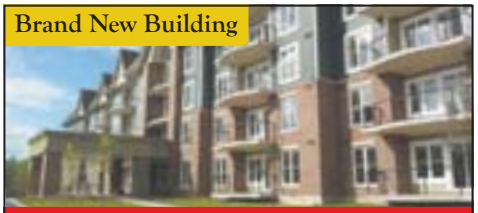
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Crossword



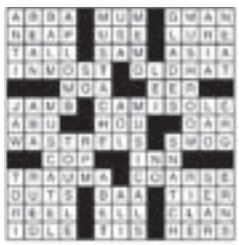
Across

1 Group character
6 Craze
9 Prescription safety org.
12 Make minor adjustments
13 Honest politician
14 Botanical bristle
15 Hidden store
16 Fastened a seat belt
18 Persian Gulf land
20 Capri or Wight
21 Cowboy's sweetie
23 Resort
24 Undoes deles
25 Newspaper page
27 Cove
29 Enact
31 Ms. Franklin
35 Possibly could
37 Apprehend
38 Macho type
41 — glance
43 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
44 "Oh, woe!"
45 Man with all the answers?
47 Drunk
49 Swelling
52 Sch. group
53 Pink-slip
54 Oft-dunked treats
55 Ever-green type
56 Peak (Abbr.)
57 13-Across' in-laws

Down

1 List-ending abbr.
2 Old "Up, up and away" carrier
3 Badgered a performer
4 Hawaiian island
5 Distorts
6 "Turn Me Loose" singer
7 Touch
8 Calendar abbr.
9 Untrue
10 Lived
11 Llamas' range
17 One of a nursery rhyme trio
19 Mimicry
21 Sticky stuff
22 Auto financing abbr.
24 Sun. speech
26 Reversible fabric
28 Coffee-house order
30 "There's no — team"
32 Took on
33 With it
34 — carte
36 Solidify
38 Glad
39 Upper crust
40 Colorful parrot
42 Monk's superior
45 Libretto
46 Modern-day money
48 Felon's flight
50 Deity
51 Curvy character

▶ Yesterday's answer



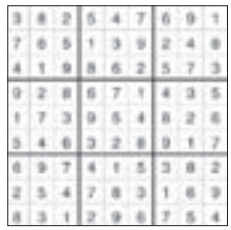
Sudoku

	8		4		5		7	
		5	9		3	4		
	2	9				3	5	
			6		8			
5								4
			3		1			
	5	2				7	8	
		1	2		9	6		
	6		5		7		4	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶



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Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Yellow: From the letters, to the blogs, to this... I always put it best in writing, "I love you!" **HAPPY G7 BEAUTIFUL :)**

Dearest Lexi, i know things have been rough for us this past month but i want you to know i dont love you any less. I love you now and forever and have not given up. I ask you not to either. I love you and am sorry for everything. Love always, **ADNAAN.**

P.S. IM SO GLAD YOU ARE IN MY LIFE AND THAT I MET YOU

Kristen, You are my everything my anything. All that I know and all that I want. Without you I am nothing with you I am everything. Alone we are weak together we can last forever. **STEFANO**

Hi shabola, kisses from the mokhayam, happy 10 years!!



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Something out of the ordinary will happen today, something you will enjoy immensely, but don't just stand there admiring your luck – use it to create even more good things for yourself in the future

♉ Taurus April 21-May What happens over the next 24 hours may take you by surprise but it will be one of those surprises that work in your favor, so be ready for it.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 The direct approach is by far the best approach today, so let everyone know how you feel and what they can do to make you feel even better.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Shake up your everyday routine. Use Mars in the work area of your chart to get on top of your chores. Do everything at double quick time

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Do something that takes those you live, work and do business with by surprise – and if it shocks them too then so much the better. You're a Leo and people expect you to be a bit outrageous

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Before you open your mouth and give your opinion on one of the burning issues of the day stop for a moment and think what the consequences might be.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Boredom is a cardinal sin and you will do whatever it takes to liven things up a bit today. Practical jokes will go down well with those who are watching

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Whatever you do today there will be someone who disapproves. Do you care? Of course not.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Mars in your sign, at odds with Uranus, makes you want to tear up what you are doing and start again from scratch. But is that wise?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You will get the chance to change something today, something you wish you had changed a long time ago. This time you won't waste the opportunity. This time you will be bold and see it through. This time you won't chicken out.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
There are so many good causes out there that would benefit from your input, but you cannot possibly help them all. What is it that you most want to change in the world? How can you do that? So do it. Now.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 It's not true that you never take chances and you'll go out of your way to prove it today as Mars, planet of action, links to Uranus, planet of changes. It's time to stir things up a bit.

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MARIO VAZQUEZ DE LA TORRE/ AP/ AGENCIA MVT

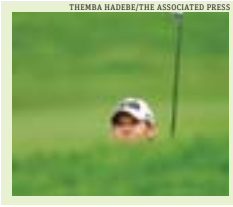


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